FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

Military Situation — The battleship *New Jersey* bombarded Syrian and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) positions in the Lebanese mountains throughout 8 February, destroying at least 30 hostile targets, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The bombardment came in response to shelling of Christian areas in and around East Beirut, the radio said. The commander of the Syrian-PSP artillery operations was killed in the shelling, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, but the Syrians are setting up a new operations room in Shtawrah that will coordinate shelling of U.S. warships. A military spokesman cited by Damascus radio denied that Syrian forces had suffered losses in the U.S. shelling, and the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio likewise denied that PSP artillery emplacements and personnel had been hit. However, the Syrian spokesman noted, the bombardment hit residential areas, killing or wounding "scores" of people.

Voice of the Mountain radio broadcast a statement by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri demanding "for the last time" that all gunmen leave the streets of Beirut for the front lines to confront President Amin al-Jumayyil's forces. In a subsequent statement broadcast by the radio, the Amal and its allies announced that Internal Security Forces would shortly take responsibility for maintaining order and that it is "forbidden" to carry arms, seize private property, kidnap persons, or open offices for new parties or organizations in West Beirut.

While the Voice of the Mountain said all armed men have disappeared from the streets of West Beirut, Radio Free Lebanon spoke of "chaos and anarchy" in the western sector, particularly after the release of prisoners, and also reported that Amal and Palestinian gunmen broke into the Finance Ministry building. Meanwhile, PSP leader Walid Junblatt called on forces in West Beirut to fortify their positions, terming the withdrawal of the Marines a "maneuver" in preparation for a U.S.-Lebanese Government operation to recapture the western sector, Voice of the Mountain reported.

Army's Stand — Beirut radio reported a statement by the defense minister emphasizing that striking the Lebanese Army is an "act of suicide" and also broadcast an Army Command communique urging soldiers to remain at their posts and not become involved in the political conflict. Junblatt criticized this communique in remarks reported by Voice of the Mountain, describing it as "suspicious because it appeals to some suspect officers in West Beirut who may later act like a Trojan horse."

Political Developments — In reply to a message from President Reagan, President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for the Lebanese people's struggle for their Arabism, freedom, and independence, SANA reported. Radio Monte Carlo viewed the Syrian reply as a rejection of the President's "warning." Earlier, Damascus radio announced that Soviet First Deputy Premier Geydar Aliyev will arrive in Syria shortly for a "working visit." In another development in Damascus, PSP leader Junblatt contacted the U.S. ambassador to protest the "barbaric" shelling of the mountain area by U.S. warships, according to the radio.

The Italian defense minister announced in Rome that Italy will gradually withdraw its contingent in Beirut, although it will try to find a solution for the protection of the Palestinian refugee camps in the city, ANSA reported.

Israeli Position — Israel will "under no circumstances" take military action to save Al-Jumayyil's regime, according to Defense Ministry sources cited by IDF Radio. The withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Lebanon will allow Israel to reconsider the idea of redeploying the IDF in the south, possibly to a line close to the Az-Zahrani River, *THE JERUSALEM POST* said in a related report. This would take the IDF out of Sidon and enable it to cut the size of its units in Lebanon and concentrate its anti-terrorist resources more effectively, the paper added.

UAE

An organization calling itself the "Arab Revolutionary Brigades" claimed responsibility for the 8 February assassination of the UAE ambassador in Paris, AFP reported. A man speaking on behalf of the organization told the agency the envoy was killed because of the "expulsion of Palestinian and Arab nationals" from the UAE and because of the UAE's "links with American imperialism."

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a press conference reported by IRNA, denied that the Iranian Government had any connection with the Paris assassination of the "butcher of Tehran,"Gholam 'Ali Oveysi, and his brother, although he added that Oveysi had received "due punishment" for his crimes.

In a separate incident, the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office in Tehran issued a statement announcing the arrest of "monarchist elements" charged with giving information to the United States and France, IRNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in an 8 February press conference reported by IRNA, reiterated his country's warning that if Iraqi forces bombard Iranian residential areas they will receive an "immediate and crushing response" from Iran. The foreign minister also said Iran will not take part in any "direct or indirect negotiations" with Iraq because it has not honored its obligations.

The Iranian War Information Headquarters dismissed as "utterly false" Iraqi claims of Iranian shelling of the Iraqi town of Mandali, IRNA reported. A headquarters spokesman described the claim as part of an Iraqi strategem for seeking an "off-hand justification" and "plausible excuses" for carrying out threats to bombard Iranian cities.

Meanwhile, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke at a ceremony marking the departure of 5,000 men for the war fronts, Tehran radio announced.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan on 15 February, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman said in remarks cited by Riyadh radio. The Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* confirmed 'Arafat's scheduled arrival date. Meanwhile, 'Arafat and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih met to discuss the Palestinian situation and developments in the Arab and international arenas, San'a' radio reported. 'Arafat also briefed the YAR leader on the results of his recent visits, the radio added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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PLO Radio Appeals to Lebanese Nationalist Forces
JN081738 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1652 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Brothers, the current situation in Lebanon heralds the great danger of ugly partitioning. Some believe that partitioning constitutes an outlet from the Phalangists' conspiratorial design and hegemony. All the Lebanese nationalist forces must be united in an alliance that rejects any polarization in the direction of any Arab side. These forces must fight as one man against partitioning and must struggle against the regime and its allies as well as against the Zionist occupation and its allies.

West Beirut must become a stronghold for this glorious struggle. West Beirut must return to what it was during the days of the Palestinian revolution: a security valve protecting Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty, democracy, and Arabism. This separation, which divides Beirut, must be destroyed. The fighting must be aimed at preventing the partitioning and not at controlling the western part of Beirut only. This must be done to safeguard Lebanon's unity. Nationalist Beirut must fight all the vicious sectarian formulas regardless of the slogans, for all these formulas are rejected outright.

Palestinians Called To Return to Lebanon
NC082234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] A spokesman for the dissidents in the Fatah Movement has stated that dissident commander Lieutenant Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who has been named director of central operations in the movement, held a high-level military meeting in Shtawrah. The conferees have made several decisions. The most important decision is to support the National Salvation Front forces. According to the Palestinian dissidents' spokesman, the conferees also called on all the Palestinian forces scattered in Arab countries to return to Lebanon to fight against the enemies.

Arab League's Klibi Appeals to Lebanese
NC082030 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, Feb 8 (AFP) — The secretary-general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, today appealed to "all the Lebanese" to end factional fighting and take "the path of national unity." In a speech at the opening here of the 36th session of Economic and Social Council of the Arab League, Mr. Klibi said:

"In the face of the tragic events that our Lebanese brothers are going through, we can only plead with them to come to their senses and take the path that will guarantee salvation, that is to make Lebanon an independent and sovereign state in the Arab family." Mr. Klibi said the current events "are threatening to destroy what the Israeli invasion left standing," and national reconciliation "is the only hope for Lebanon to overcome its troubles and break the vicious circle of fury, violence and destruction."

Mr. Klibi harshly criticized U.S. support for Israel, saying the United States "disappointed all hopes in persisting with its slant in favor of Israel, covering for the aggressions perpetrated by that state and ensuring its constant supremacy."

'Arafat Receives Soviet Ambassador in Kuwait
GF081930 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received this morning the Soviet ambassador in Kuwait, who conveyed to the brother commander in chief an important message from the Soviet leaders dealing with the recent developments in the Arab and international arenas. Brother Abu 'Ammar handed to the Soviet ambassador a reply message dealing with the PLO's stance on these developments.

'Arafat Visit to Jordan Set For 15 Feb
GF090454 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will make a visit to Jordan next Wednesday. This was stated by Mr Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, official spokesman for the PLO Executive Committee chairman, at a press conference he held in San'a' yesterday evening. He said this visit is aimed at resuming the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and at formulating a joint formula for Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation in all fields. It is noteworthy that Mr 'Arafat is currently on a visit to the YAR.

APS Interviews 'Arafat on Struggle, Egypt
LD081203 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Feb (APS) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, said he who raises weapons against the Palestinian people has no right to remain in the ranks of this people. This was said in an intreview with the APS correspondent in Kuwait. Yasir 'Arafat is currently paying a visit to Kuwait during which he is having talks with Kuwaiti officials and chaired the meetings of the Palestinian National Fund.

He went on to say: In the meeting I had with President Chadli Bendjedid I found the brother president most concerned about the unity of Palestinian ranks, about the march of the PLO, and about the independence of Palestinian decisions.

Replying to a question about the rumors that 'Arafat has held on to the olive branch and dropped the rifle, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee said: I would like our Arab people and all the masses of our Arab nation to remember that this Palestinian revolution is entering its 20th anniversary this month, hence, it is the longest Arab revolution of modern times, and I would like everyone to remember that our operations with our Lebanese allies have not ceased up to this moment behind enemy lines in Southern Lebanon and inside our occupied territory.

He added: This decision was made by the Palestinian command with all our potentials [as received]. Also, I hope that they will remember that the Palestinian revolution is involved in a military

battle and this battle is wide open in all directions — the last of these confrontations took place in the last few days when our martyrs and wounded fell inside the occupied territory in protest against the ugly crime the Zionists once again tried to carry out by blowing up the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

He added: I wish that everyone would recall these facts before making wrong statements. The Palestinian people proceed in all this from the right granted to them by all international laws and charters which stipulate that peoples facing occupiation, repression or colonialism have the right to struggle with all available military, political, public, informational, cultural, economic, and other means, even with the stones which our children are using in the occupied land. However, regrettably, some people are trying to repeat these wrong statements to harm the Palestinian revolution.

Regarding Egypt's return to the ICO and the PLO support for this, 'Arafat pointed out that no decision was made by the Islamic summit held in At-Ta'if to expel Egypt. We must remember that the decision calls on Egypt to be committed to the aims, principles, and decisions of the ICO and the Islamic summit as a framework for its return. I hope that everyone will remember that the Islamic conference was basically established after the Al-Aqsa Mosque was set on fire and on the basis of liberating Jerusalem.

'Arafat said: Egypt's committment to the principles, aims, and resolutions of the Islamic Conference is the first practical violation of Camp David at the Arab, Islamic, and international level. It is to be recalled that President Husni Mubarak inherited this legacy left to him and Egypt by As-Sadat after his crime of going to Jerusalem and approving Camp David. As-Sadat tied Egypt with these shackles which we must destroy in cooperation with Egypt. We must not say that Egypt should come to us and we must not say that we should go to Egypt. It is up to us and to the people of Egypt to cooperate together in order to end the effects, the bonds, and the policy of Camp David.

Regarding the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Yasir 'Arafat stressed that King Husayn has made no request and we did not submit any request to him. I would like to mention that our dialogue with Jordan stems from the resolutions of our PNC which called for dialogue with Jordan on the basis of the Fes summit conference and the PNC resolutions to set up Palestinian-Jordanian confederal relations. I should mention here the remarks made by King Husayn in France during the Tripoli seige that he is prepared to enter into dialogue with the PLO without preconditions.

PLO Denies Constitution for Palestinian State

JN081300 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — A senior Palestinian official denied that the PLO was aware, or had knowledge of, a draft constitution for the Palestinian state being prepared, by assignment of the Arab League, by a group of constitutional law experts including Egyptian Muslim religious scholars. The senior Palestinian official, in an exclusive statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, said that this idea was premature. He described the sources that leaked such a report as being "very optimistic". He added that such an idea may require years to pass before it sees light.

Palestinian National Fund Meetings Conclude

JN081734 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Palestinian National Fund Council concluded its meetings in Kuwait after reviewing several reports related to the PLO's budget and the means of backing our Palestinian people inside the occupied Palestinian territories as well as backing the families of Palestine martyrs. The meetings were chaired by Dr Hanna Nasir, member of the PLO Executive Committee. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar attended some of the meetings, which began last Sunday. The Palestinian National Fund Council is the PLO's financial institution.

Qaddumi-led PLO Delegation Visits Poland 4-8 Feb

LD081631 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1500 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] From 4 to 8 February a delegation of the PLO Executive Committee, including Faruq Qaddumi, paid an official friendly visit to Poland. The delegation held talks at the Foreign Ministry, was received by Henryk Jablonski, and held a meeting at the Polish Committee for Solidarity With the Countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Information was exchanged about the development of the situation in Poland and in the Palestine resistance movement. The desire was expressed to extend contacts between Poland and the PLO in the interest of both friendly nations.

OMAN

Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Departs for India

GF081014 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Muscat, 8 Feb (WAKH) — Mr Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation left Muscat this morning on a 3-day official visit to India.

In a predeparture statement, Mr al-'Alawi 'Abdallah said that during this visit he will hold talks with Indian officials on bilateral relations, the means to develop them further and the efforts to open new doors for more cooperation. He praised the efforts being made by the Indian Government to find a solution and put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Asked about the reasons for postponing the Arab summit conference that was supposed to be held in Riyadh, the Omani minister said that the reason is the lack of joint vision regarding the agenda which includes the methods of tackling the problems in question, the most important of which are the Iraq-Iran war, the exploding situation in Lebanon and the Palestinian question. For this reason, he added, the Arab states decided to postpone the summit conference until circumstances improve.

Regarding Egypt's relations with its Arab sister states, he explained that relations between Egypt and the other Arab states are continuing and growing, and that there are contacts on all levels. He added that the Egyptian president's visit to Morocco was expected, especially after his meeting with the Moroccan monarch, Hassan II, in New York during the UN session. His visit also comes after the meetings of the Islamic conference in Casablanca, and the unanimous decision to invite Egypt to resume its membership in the conference.

He also said that Morocco is playing an important role in coordinating stands between Egypt and its Arab sister states, whether these stands happen to be within the framework of the Arab states themselves or within that of the Islamic states as a whole.

PDRY

Lebanese Communist Official Arrives for Visit

GF081728 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Brother Fawwaz at-Tarabulsi, assistant secretary general of the Communist Action Organization in Lebanon, arrived in Aden today to participate in a scientific seminar on the experience of the revolution in the PDRY, which will be held on 11 February.

During his visit, Brother at-Tarabulsi will also meet with a number of party and state officials in order to hold consultations and talks on the recent developments in the situation in the Lebanese arena. He was welcomed upon his arrival by Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the YSP Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee; 'Abbas Zaki, PLO representative in Aden; and a number of brother officials at the Central Committee Secretariat.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Meets With Lebanon's Salim

LD081755 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Feb (SPA) — The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal this evening met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Discussions covered the current situation in Lebanon.

Salim arrived in Riyadh earlier today.

Salim Departs for Beirut

LD091036 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Feb (KUNA) — Dr Elie Salim, the foreign minister in the Lebanese Government that has just resigned, left Riyadh today for Beirut after holding talks with Saudi officials on the situation in Lebanon. Dr Salim had arrived in Riyadh yesterday evening and conferred with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is playing a major role in bringing an end to the fighting in Lebanon.

Deteriorating Situation in Lebanon Assessed

LD082351 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Attempts have intensified at Arab and international levels to contain the developments in Lebanon on the basis of finding a formula built on the convictions of the Lebanese people themselves. Events have succeeded one another in a tense way that might become difficult to tackle in explosive local conditions and with external intervention, which is like pouring oil onto a fire.

In the shadow of these developments, Arab and foreign moves are taking place in an effort to contain the explosions in the Lebanese arena. On the Arab level, the visit of the Lebanese foreign minister to Riyadh confirms the role the Kingdom is playing in trying to end the tragedy of the Lebanese people. The Saudi leadership has been paying increased attention to creating a reality that might be used as a basis for finding a lasting solution to the Lebanese crisis, and which rests on the conviction of the Lebanese people themselves of the need to spare their country further destruction and explosions which might not stop at Lebanon's borders.

From this reality emerges the pressing if not inevitable need, more so than at any time before, for the Lebanese people

themselves to move toward putting an end to their tragedy, and to sincerely and carefully understand the developments of this tragedy in the past and the present. Time is a succession of events which link the present with the past, and outline the picture of the future. But the contradiction between behavior and objectives is an effective frustration to any attempt to build a more stable future.

Steady relaxation of the crisis — which has been and still is dominant in Lebanon — gave a strong impression that the problem was dominating its owners, and that every side saw himself and the opposing side as the subject of the struggle. From this emerges the danger of the problem and the developments it has so far produced, which contain nothing that indicates an end to this tragedy.

For these considerations, the fears that foreign intervention might complicate the Lebanese situation in the absence of a Lebanese solution on the basis of Lebanese convictions are justified in the light of moves taking place at present for finding a formula to cover these interventions. The time is not yet too late for the brother Lebanese to put an end to their tragedies and to contain them.

AN-NADWAH Views U.S. Effectiveness in Lebanon

LD090939 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Feb (SPA) — The paper *AN-NADWAH* criticizes the American role in Lebanon and questions the effectiveness of the Marines in the 16 months of their presence in Lebanon, saying that any observer of American practices in Lebanon will come away even more convinced of the violence of the American war machine linked with a contradictory policy that runs counter to logic or any claims of peace.

The paper mentions the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, for whose attainment the United States played a major role, saying that Washington imposed on Beirut the 17 May agreement, which has been and continues to be the greatest cause of fragmentation and conflict between the various Lebanese factions. Washington has resorted through political maneuvering to imposing the supremacy of a single Lebanese faction, backing it against the other factions, and doing this with the use of force.

AN-NADWAH says that the experience of Lebanon with the American Marine force must be a deterrent to those who have nearly slipped to the level of what is happening in the banana republics, who must recover their senses now that they have realized that Lebanon can be only one thing: Arab, sovereign, free, independent and outside any zones of influence.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Press Delegation

LD081151 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received in his office this morning the American press delegation now visiting the Kingdom in the context of a tour in the region organized by the International and Strategic Studies Center of Georgetown University, in Washington. His highness reviewed with the delegation members bilateral relations between the Kingdom and the United States, and explained to them the foundations and bases of the Kingdom's foreign policy. His highness also answered questions from delegation members on the current situation and issues in the Middle East, and particularly on events in Lebanon, the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran war.

His highness thanked the members of the delegation for being interested in knowing the facts and relating them to the American public.

Economic Agreement With Indonesia Signed

BK081441 Jakarta International Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] An agreement between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia covering cooperation in the field of economy, trade, and the increased use of Indonesian workers at Saudi Arabian projects was signed in Jidda. The agreement was signed by the Indonesian delegation, Atmono Suryo, and the Saudi Arabian deputy foreign minister, 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Ali ar-Riba. Atmono Suryo, the director general of foreign economic relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that up to now there have been 47,000 Indonesians working on various projects in Saudi Arabia.

In a meeting with Saudi Arabian officials in Jidda, Atmono Suryo also discussed problems relating to agriculture, forestry, technology, and capital investment in Indonesia. Relations between the two countries' chambers of commerce and industry, trade fairs, and the possibility of sending the country's mission to observe P.T. Nurtanio, the aviation industry in Bandung, West Java, also came up during their discussions. Indonesia's exports to Saudi Arabia up to October 1983 reached $70 million.

UAE

Arab Group Claims Responsibility for Envoy's Death

JN082115 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2050 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] A cable we have just received says responsiblity for the assassination of the UAE ambassador in Paris has been claimed by an organization calling itself the Arab revolutionary brigades organization [munazzamat al-alwiyah ath-thawriyah al-'arabiyah].

Fire Breaks Out at Military Arms Depot

GF082024 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Dubayy, 8 Feb (WAKH) — Fire broke out today at the Duwayr arms depot of the armed forces in Dubayy. This resulted in a number of explosions at the depot. An official source reported that the explosions did not cause any casualties. It added that the fire was caused by an electrical shortage inside the depot and that the fire was quickly brought under control.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Solving Lebanese Crisis
JN080847 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 8 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "When Will Lebanon Belong to the Lebanese," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says the collapse of the situation in Lebanon reaffirms that the policy of sedatives and temporary solutions is no longer beneficial for solving the Lebanese crisis. The paper expresses the belief that the solution to the crisis is for Lebanon to belong to the Lebanese. This, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* adds, can be achieved not only by the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territories, but also by the elimination of all forms of foreign political influence on certain Lebanese national forces.

The paper concludes: After that occurs, the Lebanese can sit together and reach an acceptable formula for national reconciliation provided their objective is to safeguard Lebanon's unity and independence.

ROSE AL-YUSUF Attacks U.S. Mideast Policy
PM081013 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 30 Jan 84 pp 14,15

[Ahmad Hamrush article: "The U.S. Administration and God's Mercy"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration, as the popular proverb says, "is neither merciful nor allows God's mercy to be bestowed."

When UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar announced his proposal to convene an international conference to be attended by the Security Council member states, the countries concerned in the Middle East, and the PLO to try to solve the region's explosive problem, Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, head of the U.S. UN delegation, hastened to send a message to the Security Council chairman objecting to any Middle East peace conference within the UN framework, according to *AL-AHRAM* on 22 January citing news agencies.

Mrs Kirkpatrick is the handsome representative of President Reagan's administration.

Any simple citizen would ask: Why did the U.S. Administration rush into this decision? This would lead the citizen to also ask: Is the U.S. Administration therefore anxious for peace? Does it have other means to achieve peace?

Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, President Reagan's representative, gives a simple answer to these questions. In her message she says:

The only possible way to peace in the Middle East is negotiations between the parties directly concerned on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The head of the U.S. delegation says this with child-like innocence in her eyes.

She thinks people are so naive as to accept this view without arguing and trying to throw light on the present complicated conditions. So as not to be accused of extremism, we would first liketo say we have absolutely nothing against direct negotiations. Direct negotiations usually take place between parties that recognize one another so that such negotiations could lead to the signing of a peace agreement. But what is Mrs Kirkpatrick's opinion on the Israeli Government's refusal to recognize the PLO? Indeed, what is her opinion on her administration's refusal to recognize the PLO? Therefore, between whom will direct negotiations take place?

The Palestinians will choose no one other than the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. Furthermore, doesn't the U.S. Administration's representative see that an international conference, such as the one proposed by the UN secretary general, is a sound framework for direct negotiations under the aegis of the international community and in the presence of all the countries concerned with peace and war?

Why does the U.S. Administration have an aversion to the idea of convening this conference? Isn't it close to the idea of the Geneva conference which the Israeli Government was anxious to sabotage in order that the U.S. Administration would attempt to solve the problem alone? Didn't the previous U.S. Administration approve the idea of the Geneva conference?

It needs no great intelligence to see that the U.S. Administration wants to support Israel in its aggressive stands and refusal to achieve withdrawal or peace. It doesn't want Israel to be the target of criticism at a special international conference when it can use its veto to prevent any condemnation or sanctions against Israel. It was Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick herself who raised her hand with the veto sign following the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The U.S. Administration is to be excused because every condemnation of Israel is a direct condemnation of it and every sanction against Israel is an added burden on it. The U.S. Administration would have been excused had it succeeded in achieving peace in the area during the past 10 years when it had the monopoly of influence on most of the region's countries.

The United States has failed to create suitable conditions for peace; indeed it has leaned toward becoming a biased party to the problem. Didn't it conclude a strategic agreement with Israel and announced its provisions a few weeks ago? Didn't it engage in the Lebanese civil war with its 6th Fleet and Marines on the side of the fascist forces collaborating with Israel?

This is the reason why the U.S. Administration rejects the idea of an international conference; to prevent light being thrown on its mistakes and those of Israel as well, so that it can remain the only state in control of the area and deal with the area's problems within its operations room. Does this attitude indicate a real desire for peace?

Can a simple citizen be convinced by Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick's assertion that "the only possible way" to peace in the Middle East isnegotiations between the parties directly concerned?

Why doesn't the U.S. Administration call a spade a spade and declare its opposition to this conference because it wants to have

the upper and stronger hand, and because it wants to maintain the Multinational Force, which it controls and operates outside the UN framework?

Its opposition also lies in its desire to support Israel to the hilt, "whether the Arab countries like it or not," as U.S. Secretary of State Shultz said.

It is also because it is afraid that voices will be raised at the conference expressing the Arab nation's will and that the conference will at the same time reveal differences between the United Stats and certain European countries.

Furthermore it is because it wants to use the area as a fixed base for itself in its global strategy, a situation that will expose us to the dangers of a world war instead of bringing about agreement on a comprehensive and just peace.

Yes, why doesn't the U.S. Administration call a spade a spade since the matter is known to all?

Finally, the United States fully reveals its stand when Jean Kirkpatrick says in her letter that the United States will not take part in such a conference nor in any preparatory works for it. Is it a conference on war or peace which the U.S. Administration is refusing to attend?

The popular proverb that says "he is neither merciful nor allows God's mercy to be bestowed" truly applies to the U.S. Administration.

U.K. Ship Obstructs Suez Canal Navigation

JN081517 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Port Said, 8 Feb (MENA) — Navigation in the Suez Canal was obstructed today when the British ship (*Dana Fone*) deviated from her proper course. The ship's load capacity is 57,000 tons. The incident occurred while the ship was passing through the Port Said tributary at the kilometer 60 point at the entrance of the navigational route.

Ships arriving from the Mediterranean are being diverted to Port Said until the ship is towed. The towing will be carried out by the Suez Canal Authority's rescue team under the supervision of the authority's director, engineer 'Adil 'Izzat. Maritime rescue experts stated they are waiting for the tide, which will facilitate the towing and help to normalize the situation at the tributary's entrance.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,366

JN081715 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,366 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces, while celebrating with our proud people the 21st anniversary of the glorious 8 Feburary revolution and the 14th anniversary of the valiant Popular Army, emphasize that they will remain the protector of the borders of great Iraq against the machinations of the covetous and suspect ones, scoring new epics and victories over the forces of the rancorous Iranian regime. The results of the activities carried out in the operation sectors yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the central sector of the battlefield and forced it to flee after scoring direct hits on a number of its elements.

2. Our forward units engaged with artillery several of the enemy artillery emplacements opposite our positions east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits and destroying one weapon emplacement.

3. This morning, the spiteful Khomeyniite clique shelled Zurbatiyah and its suburbs with heavy artillery, damaging some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 February 1984

III Army Corps Commander on War Preparations

JN081502 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The staff major general who is commanding the III Army Corps has affirmed that all Iraqi fighters are fully prepared to destroy all the aggressors. He said: Our preparedness and intelligence activities are high and assuring. The state of alert among our fighters, units, and formations promises decisive and quick results, with God's help; shows the determination of our victorious leader Saddam Husayn; and reflects the active preparedness of our fighters and glorious people.

In a statement to INA, the staff major general explained that the Iraqi capability characterized during the epic battles east of Basra, in Maysan, and in Mandali and those that took place in southern Iraq recently will certainly strengthen the forthcoming victories. He noted that development of the Army is continuing regarding the procurement of weapons, the quickness in mastering the use of these weapons, and the preparation of some equipment — which comes from the Iraq experience that was gained during the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah in the area of field mobilization.

The commander of the III Army Corps affirmed that the Armed Forces General Command's warnings to strike at Iranian cities constitute a state of emergency in defence of our precious homeland, which results from the spiteful Iranian regime's continued aggression against our homeland and its shelling of our cities, villages, and townships. He pledged to Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to have those fighters under whose feet all the offenses of the greedy and spiteful aggressors and their Arab supporters are destroyed, remain in the highest state of alertness and enthusiasm in order to keep Iraq's banners flying with glory, reinforced with the will of the Iraqis and their historical and distinguished leader.

Ramadan Comments on Popular Army Development

JN081021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander of the Popular Army, has stated that 100,000 Popular Army fighters are permanently present at the battlefront.

In a statement to *ATH-THAWRAH* on the Popular Army's 14th anniversary today, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the number of those enlisted in the Popular Army has reached 560,000 compared to 230,000 before the war with Iran. He stressed that volunteering for the Popular Army continues and increases under the current war circumstances. Ramadan explained that the Popular Army formations comprise volunteers from all the Arab countries, and described this Arab participation as the only candle illuminating the pitch blackness in which the Arab nation is living.

Cooperation Agreement Concluded With Turkey

JN081513 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Ankara, 8 Feb (INA) — Iraq and Turkey concluded here today a new agreement on economic, trade, and technical cooperation, following the end of the joint economic committee's fourth session. The agreement was signed on the Iraqi side by Qasim Ahmad Taqi, oil minister, and on the Turkish side by Cemal Buyukbas, the minister of energy and natural resources. The agreement includes bases for expanding the fields of trade and economic cooperation and coordinating the fields of oil, energy, banks, and communications. During the meetings, a preliminary agreement was reached establishing a joint Iraqi-Turkish bank, constructing a railroad that links the two countries, installing a new oil pipeline and another pipeline for natural gas from Iraq to Turkey, and supplying Turkey with electric energy.

In a speech during the ceremony, after the agreement was concluded, Minister Taqi stressed Iraq's sincere desire to cooperate with Turkey and said: Our historic relations and geographical location dictate to us that we make large efforts to develop cooperation in various fields. The Turkish minister affirmed that the agreement will produce positive results for the two neighboring countries. He said that the friendship and brotherhood between Iraq and Turkey played an important role in reaching these great results. He described the agreement as a new thrust in economic cooperation.

Yasir 'Arafat To Arrive in Amman 18 Feb

JN091002 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman on 18 February on a visit that will last several days. He will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials during the visit.

AD-DUSTUR Comments on U.S. 'Collapse' in Lebanon

JN081202 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Necessary Courage," *AD-DUSTUR* says: After the collapse of law and order in the Lebanese capital and the renewed Army fragmentation, it seems the old Lebanon is now clearing the stage for a new Lebanon. The reverberations of this terrible collapse will be felt outside Lebanon and in more than one capital involved in all that has happened in that long suffering country.

The U.S. side is the side most involved in the rapidly changing affairs in Lebanon. U.S. policy, which is sometimes obscure and mostly hesitant, has resulted not only in making Lebanon turbulent, but has also caused this collapse which will result in the removal of the U.S. presence from Lebanon along with the removal of many other things which exist as a result of the U.S. presence.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The rapidly approaching collapse of the U.S. role in Lebanon may have a greater impact on future U.S. policy in the Middle East than the collapse of the government in Beirut. President Reagan's administration can assume complete responsibility for everything that has happened in Lebanon, beginning with the Israeli invasion in the summer of 1982, followed by the Israeli-Lebanese treaty and the accompanying events, and ending with the present Lebanese Government — a government that bet its destiny on the U.S. role, despite the fact that this role is obscure and hesitant.

AD-DUSTUR says: Lebanon, which is experiencing the most acute stage of its modern history, requires its chief of state to practice rare moral courage in order to preserve the unity of the homeland and overcome all the threats. The continued rule of President al-Jumayyil, which was undermined by his excessive wagering on a U.S. role, has become the window through which the winds of partition and destruction can blow away those establishments that have not already been destroyed.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The valuable lesson that the Lebanese can learn from their long ordeal is that outside powers, despite their great effectiveness and ability to destroy, cannot replace the local base that is necessary for the continuation of a ruler and the protection of achievements and local political interests. The United States has proved its great inability despite all its planes and battleships, in the same way that Israel earlier proved its failure and inability.

Here too all those conspirators that wagered over Lebanon are losing their cards. Only the Lebanese people can guarantee their tomorrow and future in a manner that preserves equal rights and interests for all its forces and sects on a firm basis of social justice which we hope will prevail in the sister country.

AR-RA'Y on Prospects for Lebanon's Future

JN081405 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Feb 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Lebanon Before the End"]

[Text] The Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the isolationist forces' attempt to separate Lebanon from its Arab homeland and nation have created a situation worse than the one that existed before the invasion and before the isolationist attempt began to be implemented. Beirut, which had been divided into East Beirut and West Beirut, is now divided into three parts in wake of the Amal Movement's control of southern Beirut. The Lebanese Army, which the legitimate authorities believed they had succeeded in rebuilding and equipping to be an army for all Lebanon, broke up in the first confrontation between the authorities and their opponents while the forces of invasion and Sa'd Haddad's militias control southern Lebanon and the National Salvation Front controls the mountain, Tripoli, and other areas in Al-Biqa'.

The objective of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon was to secure the safety of Galilee; it later became removing the Palestinian resistance.

The conclusion of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement came as confirmation that the Zionist objective, which is supported by world powers which have designs on Lebanon's Arab character, is far bigger than what had been declared and reached the point of imposing complete Zionist hegemony on Lebanon, after stripping it of its Arab charater with the support and assistance of Lebanese isolationist forces very well known for their enmity toward everything that is Arab and their readiness to ally themselves with the enemies of the homeland and the nation.

Now that the situation in Lebanon has deteriorated to this point and that the state appears to be the weakest and least potent party, one wonders about the role assumed by Washington and the Zionist enemy in bringing about this state of affairs. Washington promised Lebanon it would compel the forces of invasion to withdraw. Later it was proved that the U.S. Administration had no desire to see the withdrawal completed and was ready to relinquish its obligations even at the expense of its credibility and status as a big power. Even when the Multinational Force came to Lebanon, it carried out a role which did not serve peace and stability and which only led to further catastrophes for the Lebanese people, not to mention the Lebanese legitimate authorities' failure to prove that they are working for all of Lebanon and all the Lebanese.

Under these gloomy circumstances, the isolationist forces, particularly the Phalange Party, did their best to implement their objectives of imposing complete hegemony, linking Lebanon to the Zionist enemy, and detaching it from its Arab affiliation.

What Lebanon is now facing is not the danger of partition, as this already exists de facto, but of the declaration of partitioning, and the only thing that remains is for the Lebanese parties to agree that this is the possible solution.

This solution will be the beginning of Lebanon's extinction and its coming under the hegemony of hostile forces forever. If that catastrophe occurs, all the Lebanese will be responsible because they failed to safeguard their unity and to attain a minimum of national accord.

It is regrettable that this is taking place while the Arabs remain inactive. It is also regrettable that the envoy of the U.S. Administration is the only one who is touring the region and tightening the conspiracy against Lebanon's Arab character, unity, and affiliation.

Four Members of Parliament Leave for West Bank

JN081234 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — A number of West Bank members of Parliament left Amman yesterday to visit relatives on the West Bank. They are Sharif al-Qubbaj, Ziyad Yunis, Ribhi Mustafa, and Edward Khamis. They are expected to stay there for several days.

Religious Trust Council Formed for W. Bank

JN081013 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — The cabinet has decided to form a Religious Trust Council in the West Bank headed by Shaykh Sa'd ad-Din al-Alami and including as members Anwar al-Khatib, Anwar Nussaybah, 'Abd al-Qadir as-Salih, Shaykh Tawfiq Jarar, Husni al-Ashhab, Ibrahim at-Tawil, Dr Hafiz 'Abd an-Nabi, and the director of religious trusts in Jerusalem.

U.S. Retaliates Against Syrian-Ordered Shelling

Artillery Emplacements Hit

NC081547 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Syrian artillery batteries in the mountain and allies' artillery batteries in Upper al-Matn and the Ash-Shuf are continuing to shell residential areas in Al-Hadath, Galerie Sim'an, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Furn ash-Shubbak, Al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Hazimiyah, Mukallis, Al-Judaydah, Ad-Dikwanah, and An-Nab'ah. The guns of the U.S. Naval vessels, particularly the battleship *New Jersey*, are returning fire. The *New Jersey* has thus far fired more than 70 16-inch caliber shells. This is in addition to the bombardment by other vessels since 1320 today, which totaled more than 160 shells. These have destroyed artillery emplacements in 'Ayn 'Nub, Majdal B'ala, Al-Ghabun, Al-Mughaytiyah, Falugha, Qirnayil, and 'Ayn as-Sahhah.

The bombardment directed at the Syrians and their allies located in residential areas caused many casualties and heavy destruction and fires.

The *New Jersey*'s bombardment today of attacking artillery batteries did not come in response to attacks on the Marine positions, as was the case in the past, but came on President Reagan's personal orders to shell artillery batteries directing their fires on Greater Beirut.

Syrians To Shell Warships

NC081543 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] According to the latest information, one of the shells fired by the [U.S.] warships caused the death of the commander and coordinator of the shelling operations in Upper al-Matn at position No 254. His assistants were also killed when the building collapsed.

It has been learned that the Syrians are in the process of setting up a new operations room in Shtawrah to coordinate military operations.

The warships' shells also destroyed other emplacements in Tarshish, Kafr Silwan, Juwar al-Hawz, and Jabal al-Kanisah.

It has been learned that the Operations Room in Shtawrah is preparing to shell the U.S. warships. It has been reported that Syrian helicopters are transporting the wounded from the mountain and Upper al-Matn.

U.S. Embassy, Envoy's Home Shelled

NC081617 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Marine spokesman said a short while ago that the *New Jersey*'s artillery has scored direct hits on Syrian emplacements in Hammana. According to the U.S. spokesman, the shelling was in retaliation for the shelling of Greater Beirut, the U.S. ambassador's house, and U.S. Embassy. According to special information received by our radio, roughly 30 military positions and artillery emplacements have been destroyed.

PSP Denies Emplacements Hit

NC081650 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1628 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Progressive Socialist Party radio formerly known as "Voice of Truth"]

[Text] [Words indistinct] news to the effect that the battleship *New Jersey* has destroyed artillery emplacements belonging to the Progressive Socialist Party as well as a center (?for coordinating) the fire, and killing their personnel. This news is absolutely wrong. We inform you that the *New Jersey* has shelled a civilian and not a military target.

RFL: Damascus Admits Positions Hit

NC081841 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] This evening Radio Damascus admitted that the 16-inch guns of the *New Jersey* affected artillery positions in the areas of 'Ayn 'Nub, Majdal Ba'na, Qurnayil, Falugha, and Nab' as-Safa.

Marine Spokesman on Shelling

NC082225 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] U.S. warships tonight bombarded Syrian artillery emplacements in Sawfar, Ru'aysat Sawfar, Al-Mudayrij, Falugha, and Hammana, as well as similar military positions in Bhamdun and 'Alayh. A Syrian military spokesman said this evening that the Syrian forces sustained no casualties as a result of the intense U.S. bombardment.

Meanwhile, Major Brooks, the military spokesman for the Marines in Beirut, has emphasized that the U.S. warships will continue to bombard the aggressive positions as long as Greater Beirut and its suburbs are subjected to attacks.

'New Jersey' Resumes Shelling

NC082236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Station reportedly under the control of Amal]

[Text] Security sources reported a short while ago that the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* resumed artillery shelling of mountain positions at 2230 tonight for the third time in less than 10 hours. REUTERS reported a few minutes ago that a Syrian military spokesman said that villages, cities, and positions in Ash-Shuf were shelled, resulting in scores of civilian casualties and heavy property damage. The spokesman added that the Syrians sustained no losses.

U.S., Syrian, Israeli Overflights Noted

NC091014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1008 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] A security source reports that U.S. warplanes today at noon flew reconnaissance sorties over the sea, while Israeli warplanes simultaneously flew repeatedly over the south. Syrian aircraft flew over the Al-Biqa' and Al-Hirmil areas.

Junblatt Terms U.S. Withdrawal 'Maneuver'

NC082202 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2100 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The battleship *New Jersey* and the emplacements of treachery and venom of the ruling family's army continue to scorch the mountain and residential areas in the suburb and Beirut. This has bewildered the commentators regarding the ambiguous U.S. stand following President Reagan's orders to effect a redeployment of the Marines in Lebanon.

In response to this barbaric shelling, Walid Junblatt today declared that the U.S. withdrawal is a new maneuvre planned by the [Lebanese] Government and Reagan administration to storm West Beirut again; particularly after this devastating shelling which has claimed the life of scores of innocent citizens. Junblatt added that the patriotic forces will not be fooled by this maneuver mountedby Reagan-the-devastor. He called on all forces to fortify Beirut and protect the victory.

RFL on U.S. Facing of Soviet-Syrian 'Challenge'

NC081844 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Washington has faced the Soviet-Syrian challenge without blinking. The 16-inch guns of the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* have thundered throughout the afternoon and evening, conveying a message to the Syrian occupation forces. This message took the form of a bombardment of Syrian-Junblattist batteries in the mountain and as far as the Al-Biqa', whose savage activity extended over all the residential areas in Greater Beirut and B'abda, North al-Matn, and Kasrawan Districts.

Reports from Washington have further confirmed that the American commitment to Lebanon is clear and that President Ronald Reagan is firmly resolved to carry out his threat so that Lebanon may regain the initiative on the political and military scenes.

ANSA: Plans to Evacuate Italian Civilians

AU081558 Rome ANSA in English 1540 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpts] (ANSA) Beirut, February 8 — Italian civilians in Beirut were instructed today to stay indoors and urged not to panic while receiving assurances that an emergency plan for their evacuation was ready. Italian diplomatic sources in the Lebanese capital disclosed today that the *Carole* naval transport vessel was ready in the harbour to board the civilians when the evacuation order is given.

There are presently some 150 Italian civilians in Beirut, not counting the second and third generation Italian families settled in the Lebanese capital which never gave up their Italian citizenship. Most have no intention of leaving the country now. The major group to be evacuated, the same sources said, are the 90 skilled and unskilled laborers working on the construction of the electric power station in Zuq, north of Beirut.

An immediate evacuation appears unlikely, not least because of the practical problems involved. Embassy sources said that it would be possible, if the situation required, to evacuate the Italian civilians with military means, but right now, they say, the situation would not justify it.

Italian MNF Contingent Commander on Pullout

AU081937 Rome ANSA in English 1930 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpts] (ANSA) Beirut, February 8 — The Multinational Peacekeeping Force is withdrawing [words indistinct] as the situation rapidly [word indistinct] in the Lebanese capital.

The Italian troops, about 1400 after the partial withdrawal in January, are at their posts and continue to provide protection for the Palestinian Sabra and Shatila refugee camps until further orders come from Rome.

General Franco Angioni, commander of the Italian contingent, said that a full pullout could be accomplished in two hours or in six days, depending on the circumstances and the government's orders. "But one thing is certain, we are not fleeing Lebanon. We are continuing to carry out our task while waiting for the situation to clear and for the necessary decisions to be taken at the political level", Angioni said.

The Italian contingent, which had been the first to announce a reduction, is now the only one that continues to carry out its task amidst raging battles in Beirut.

The Palestinian camps and Burj al-Barajinah, over which the Italians have control, is the only Muslim area of Beirut where guerrillas do not circulate and order is maintained.

The Italian field hospital continues to assist wounded civilians. In seven days of intense fighting, 12 soldiers have been wounded, one seriously, by stray bullets and shrapnel.

Portuguese Embassy Staff To Withdraw From Beirut

LD090122 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2330 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Portuguese Foreign Ministry announced tonight that the staff at the Portuguese Embassy in Beirut has been instructed to leave the Lebanese capital for Cyprus as soon as possible.

Al-Jumayyil-Al-Wazzan Discuss Beirut Situation

NC082014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has contacted [outgoing] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and briefed him on the moves the regime has made to confront the current situation. Al-Wazzan asked President al-Jumayyil to intensify the efforts aimed at controlling the tragic situation in western Beirut. Al-Jumayyil told him that all contacts are being channeled in this direction.

Al-Jumayyil-Pope Discuss Current Situation

NC082227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] His Holiness Pope John Paul II today telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil and told him of the contacts which his holiness held with the ICO secretariat general and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia regarding the situation in Lebanon. The pope said he sent a cable to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and that he received the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and handed him a message for U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

During the 20-minute contact, the pope said he supports the unity of Lebanon — its land and people — and the need to establish a dialogue between the sons of the homeland which would replace the fighting. President al-Jumayyil briefed the pope on the situation, includingthe tragic conditions through which the country is passing and the efforts which the regime is exerting to maintain Lebanon's unity.

President al-Jumayyil and the pope agreed to maintain contact.

Al-Jumayyil Envoy Confers With Khaddam, Junblatt

NC291200 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received [Lebanese presidential envoy] Jean 'Ubayd. 'Ubayd had met earlier with Walid Junblatt.

Salim in Riyadh With Message From Al-Jumayyil

NC081858 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim is now in Riyadh with a message from President al-Jumayyil to Saudi King Fahd regarding the deterioration in Lebanon.

Minister's Call on Regime's Collapse Monitored

NC081904 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1845 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] A [Lebanese] minister was heard talking to an unidentified person in a telephone call monitored a short while ago. The minister was heard saying to this person: Okay, they have agreed with us to continue shelling for 3 days. They concurred with our view that the regime will fall if the situation maintains its present course.

Defense Minister Warns Against Attacking Army

NC081615 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri emphasized that striking the Lebanese Army is an act of suicide. He stressed that all Lebanese must support their Army because it comes from their ranks and belongs to them in all areas.

PSP Radio Warns of Army's Appeal to Officers

NC082043 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1945 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Compatriots: The plea made today by the Phalangist army command — alleging that it is united — is suspicious because it appeals to certain suspect officers in West Beirut who may later act like a Trojan horse. Thus we call on everyone to keep alert and take necessary precautions to avoid falling into this trap.

The U.S. pullout from Beirut dovetails with this plea and falls within the context of the preparations for a military operation aimed at storming West Beirut. Let every precaution be taken to defend the steadfast national fortress.

Major General Al-Hakim Addresses Army Defectors

NC081732 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Address by Major General Nadim al-Hakim, not further identified, to the officers and men who "responded to the call of national conscience"; date not given — recorded]

[Text] To the officers and men in the Al-Biqa' area, western Beirut, the southern suburb, and other national areas in Lebanon:

I bless your courageous step and honorable stand, as I previously blessed the magnificent stand of your colleagues — the officers, noncomissioned officers, and men of the Hammana barracks — who rejected the unusual practices of torturing our innocent citizens. These practices took place and continue in the mountain, southern suburb, and western Beirut.

The stage through which Lebanon is now passing behooves all of us to work seriously and effectively for the salvation of our country. What we aspire to is building an army on national, just, and sound bases. After amending Army laws and regulations, I aspire to see this Army, which I have faithfully served for 20 years, as the army of the salvation, the homeland, and for all the homeland. I aspire to see it as the army of all the people and not of one faction. I aspire to see it as an honest and impartial army which rises above all conflicts, and fortified and impregnable, safeguarding the unity of the people, their freedom, and dignity. I aspire to see this army preserving the national accord, defending

independence, and providing protection, tranquillity, and stability to all the sons of Lebanon with their various communities and affiliations. I aspire to see it become the deliverance of this country, ridding it of interference, domination, and hegemony.

Your presence in these barracks is not a sign of division or fragmentation. We all support the unity of this Army and through it the unity of the homeland and people. The best thing you can do at this stage is to remain in your barracks, adopt a neutral position toward these conflicts, unite your ranks, and adhere to military discipline and qualities. I will meet with you in your barracks very soon, God willing. We are all determined and have vowed to work for the salvation of this country.

Army Rebels Praise Al-Kharrub Deserters

NC081811 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The military men who rebelled and rejected the orders of the ruling family's army have met in Shhim, following which they issued this statement:

Our brothers the officers, the NCO's, and the soldiers in the Al-Kharrub region: We salute your valiant uprising against the clique of Phalangist commanders and tyranny of Al-Jumayyil's family. You are making the homeland's future a shining one. You have taken part in the victory of patriotic Beirut and the heroic suburb, and will take part in the victory of the Al-Kharrub region. Stand beside us on the frontlines of battle — we are waiting for you.

RFL: Junblatt Appoints Military Governor

NC081950 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1940 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt issued a decision tonight providing for the appointment of Anwar al-Fatayri as military governor of West Beirut, and vested him with all the administrative, military, judicial, and court martial powers.

Reportage on Amal Movement Security Policy

Gunmen Asked to Frontlines

NC081513 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1312 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has made a special statement to the Voice of the Mountain:

As President Mitterrand put it, the authority [Al-Jumayyil] is bent on destroying its people. The executioner of the Lebanese people does not seem satisfied with what he perpetrated in An-Nab'ah before being installed in office, nor with the devastation of the southern suburb afterward. Despite our commitment to establishing a cease-fire, and our abiding by the spiritual and religious plea made yesterday, he is currently unleashing his gunfire on what is left of West Beirut and the southern suburb. I am demanding, for the last time, that all gunmen, without exception, immediately leave the streets of West Beirut. Otherwise, they will be held responsible and punished. They should head for the front lines, whether in the [southern] suburb or West Beirut.

Our kinfolk, you have heard the thundering cannons, as well as the Lebanese forces' commander call for a public mobilization and regrouping at the frontlines so that Beirut and its suburb can regain their former boundaries. Armed men in West Beirut distort that which we have achieved through our collective struggle. We cannot afford any security indiscipline or any practices which blemish the uprising while our brothers are sacrificing their lives at the front lines. Mustafa ad-Dirani, member of the Movement's Political Bureau, fell today and is dying. Many others have fallen to the barbaric shelling.

I am reiterating this plea for the last time. We have to assume our responsibilities in protecting the citizens. This duty will be promptly handed over to the Internal Security Forces and afterward to the 6th Brigade. I hope this plea will be immediately heeded, and that there will be a move from the narrow streets to the broad arena of combat.

Armed Men Leave W. Beirut

NC081737 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1600 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Within the framework of the measures taken by the patriotic forces and Amal Movement, the Security Committee is operating patrols in the streets and outskirts of West Beirut. These patrols stopped some security violations on Al-Hamra Street and confiscated the violators' weapons. It was later observed that all the armed men have disappeared from West Beirut.

Amal Security Resolutions

NC082009 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1850 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The following are the resolutions issued by the Amal Movement and patriotic and Islamic forces during a meeting today in Beirut:

The patriotic and Islamic forces and the Amal Movement discussed political and security developments and dealt with internal issues. The conferees support the following security committee resolutions:

1. It is forbidden to kidnap any citizen regardless of sectarian and political affiliations. Any type of aggression is also forbidden.

2. It is forbidden to open any office for any new party or organization. Offices in existence a week ago are to be exempted. Those offices opened during the past 2 days are to be closed.

3. It is forbidden to seize any house, office, or private or public institution under any pretext whatsoever.

4. All vehicles and equipment seized from the barracks and public and private institutions are to be promptly returned to their owners.

5. As of tonight, the Internal Security Forces are to take charge of maintaining security throughout West Beirut.

6. Fighting forces are to be regrouped at the frontlines in keeping with the instructions of the Joint Operations room.

7. All armed men are prohibited from all city districts.

8. It is forbidden to carry arms in the city.

9. Patriotic officers, Army personnel, and Internal Security Forces must report to Henri Shihab barrack and Al-Hulu Police barrack. They are not to join any other organizations. Those who fail to assume their duties will be held responsible.

10. In the event of any problem in the known positions in Beirut, contact is to be made with the Internal Security Forces.

11. Sandbag barricades are to be removed from West Beirut.

Supreme Shi'ite Council Discusses Developments

NC082211 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, embracing both its executive and legislative bodies, held a special session today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, the council's deputy chairman. The council reviewed the tragic political, security, and national developments in the Lebanese arena.

At its meeting, the council reasserted its historical line of full commitment to and absolute defense of the unity of Lebanon — its land, people, and institutions — within its internationally recognized borders. It also emphasized its opposition to all overt and covert attempts at fragmentation and partition, which are taking place under various guises and facades.

The conferees stressed the necessity of preventing the Army's involvement in internal conflicts and to quickly provide the appropriate atmosphere enabling it to carry out the duties awaiting it in the south, which constitute a factor for the unification of Lebanon. The council supported the context of the statement issued by their Eminences Mufti Khalid and Shaykh Shams ad-Din, and demanded that all sides abide by that statement and act toward its immediate implementation and reunification of Beirut, by reopening the crossing points and removing the obstacles obstructing contacts between the citizens in the two parts of Beirut.

The council studied the 17 May 1983 agreement between Lebanon and Israel, and considered it the primary reason for the continuation of the Lebanese crisis, preventing the reformation of the general political stand, and putting it on the path of a real reconciliation, which would lead to an end to the tribulation. The council further studied the recurring Israeli excesses against the sons of the south, which clearly confirm that this agreement has practically collapsed, and therefore must be officially annulled. The council hailed all the Lebanese in the south for the comprehensive civil resistance being waged against the occupier Israeli enemy, which must withdraw from the last inch of our pure soil. The council will remain in session to watch the developments.

Spiritual Leaders Appeal for End to Fighting

NC081947 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Station reportedly under the control of Amal; joint statement issued on 8 February by Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of Lebanon; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council; Cardinal Patriarch Antonios Butrus Khuraysh, patriarch of the Maronite community; and Patriarch Ighnatius Hazim of the Greek Orthodox Church — read by Bishop Nasrallah Sufayr — live or recorded]

[Text] Lebanese brothers and sons: We have previously made separate and collective appeals to you. Today, we address this joint appeal asking you in the name of God, to whose worship we have vowed ourselves, and call upon you to stop the fighting in the name of the homeland, which you have built with your shoulders and sweat, and where death and destruction have spread, threatening disintegration and portending an evil fate. Cease fighting to avoid more tragedies from befalling your brother citizens. Stanch the flow of innocent blood. Fear God and safeguard your sanctities. Do not allow the evildoers to persist in the destruction of the country, which is dividing the people and deepening the gap among citizens. Help the wise and good-willed people, as well as the security officials, in preserving the citizens' lives and their property, and in protecting the various institutions to enable them to continue their services.

When the guns become silent, the fire extinguished, the citizens come out of the shelters, and serenity prevails, the way will be open for a frank dialogue in which all ideas could be discussed to reach a solution satisfying all factions and consolidating the future Lebanon on firm foundations of equality, freedom, and justice.

May God inspire us all to do what satisfies Him and leads to the salvation of our homeland, Lebanon.

Signed: The mufti, Shaykh Hasan Khalid; Patriarch Ighnatius Hazim; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din; and Cardinal Patriarch Antonios Butrus Khuraysh.

Birri Says Order To Be Restored Within 24 Hours

NC091148 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced today that the Beirut International Airport will be reopened soon. He also announced that security and order will return to all quarters and streets of West Beirut within the next 24 hours. Birri has given orders to all armed Amal members to withdraw from the streets.

Birri Says Shops, Establishments To Open 10 Feb

NC091250 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said the Security Committee's decision on the removal of gunmen from the streets has been largely implemented. He added: I shall ask the Security Committee to reopen shops and official establishments tomorrow. These steps will be completed later through the reopening of the airport and universities, particularly American University, so it will not be transferred to East Beirut.

Birri added that he seizes this opportunity to appeal to all diplomatic missions and humanitarian establishments to continue their work in a normal manner.

Birri made an inspection tour of West Beirut during which he visited the house of Walid Junblatt and met with Anwar al-Fatayiri, the commissioner of general mobilization.

RFL: Amal Gunmen Break Into Finance Ministry

NC082023 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2002 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Groups of Amal Movement gunmen, supported by Palestinians, surrounded the Finance Ministry building near Riyad as-Sulh in West Beirut a short time ago and broke through the ministry's entrance.

KUNA: Amal Leader on South's Liberation

LD090906 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Feb (KUNA) — Amal Movement head Nabih Birri has said that the southern suburb [of Beirut] is determined not to surrender except in martyrdom. He said Lebanon's unity was the movement's absolute top priority, beginning withthe liberation of southern Lebanon. In an exclusive interview published today in the newspaper *AL-WATAN*, he said the Amal Movement sees Lebanon's unity only through the liberation of the south. In other words, "we shall not accept a smiling Lebanon while its southern part suffers, something constantly said by Imam Musa as-Sadr [missing Shi'ite imam in Lebanon] who feared an Israeli occupation of the south."

Mr Birri added that the Amal Movement, in addition to its demand for the abolition of privileges, also called for the abolition of political sectarianism, calling it a viper put in the chests of the Lebanese since 1943 when each of them believed this viper would protect him while in fact feeding off him until the current situation was reached. He noted that the origin of evil in Lebanon was the existing sectarian situation, saying that the Movement's intended plan for the south would seek to impose an Israeli withdrawal from every inch of southern Lebanon. He added that the Amal Movement and Lebanese Shi'ites have always rejected the establishment of any relations with Israel, and that they reject such relations more than ever today. What is required is an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon without any tie or conditions.

He said if the southern suburb falls it would also mean the fall of West Beirut and the mountain, because the suburb is like a lung through which the mountain breathes, and consequently its fall would mean the mountain's isolation.

Mr Birri stressed that the relations between the Amal Movement and Salvation Front command and Syria were excellent, and that the combat was a common one. On the other hand, Birri said he would fight any formula for partition, even if the fight lasted 90 years as during the Spanish war [as received].

Beirut Radio Notes Contacts With Israel

NC081243 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1209 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Reacting to certain media reports, a responsible source explained that any contact between Lebanon and Israel takes place through the joint committee with the United States, which was formed to deal with the various matters arising from the Israeli occupation. Contacts have recently been held among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States within this framework to prevent any situation from occurring in the south similar to what happened in the Ash-Shuf when Israel withdrew last September.

Reaction to New U.S. Moves, Shelling Reported

Spokesman on U.S. Shelling

JN081835 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

Escalating the premeditated aggressive acts against the Lebanese people, the U.S. battleships stationed off the Lebanese coast began as of 1330 this afternoon, 8 February 1984, an intensive barbaric shelling of the residential areas in the villages, cities, and positions of the Lebanese nationalist forces in Ash-Shuf and Al-Matn, including the residential areas where our forces are stationed. This shelling left scores of killed or wounded among the civilians, including women, children, and elderly people and caused grave damage to houses and property. Our forces have not suffered any losses as a result of this shelling.

Radio Reports U.S. Shelling

JN082020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut — The forces of the Lebanese Army and Phalangist militias, backed by the U.S. battleship *New Jersey*, have escalated their shelling of the nationalist areas in Beirut and the mountain. Radio Voice of the Mountain said that the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* is still intensifying its shelling of the nationalist positions on the mountain and that the Phalangist army's artillery this afternoon shelled the Ash-Shuwayfat-southern suburb road while civilian cars were passing by. This shelling killed 25 persons and wounded 40 others. Radio Voice of the Mountain added that the arbitrary shelling of the Phalangist militias was aimed at highly populated quarters in Al-Khalwat, Falugha, Qurnayil, Ra's al-Matn, Ash-Shabbaniyah, and the quarters of Ra's an-Nab' Al-Mazra'a, Al-Barbir, and As-Sullum in Beirut.

Radio Monte Carlo cited a U.S. Marines spokesman in Lebanon as saying that the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* this afternoon fired more than 100 shells on the Lebanese nationalist positions. The *New Jersey*, the spokesan said, also used the huge 400-and 300-mm guns, whose shells weigh about 1 ton.

President Receives Reagan Message

JN082048 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, 8 Feb (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Robert Paganelli. The ambassador conveyed to the president a message from President Ronald Reagan dealing with the transfer of U.S. Marines from Beirut to the U.S. Sixth Fleet and with measures the United States intends to adopt in the future.

The president asked the ambassador to convey a reply message to the U.S. President, reconfirming Syria's principled, well known, and constant support for the Lebanese people's struggle for their Arabism, freedom, and independence.

Junblatt Contacts U.S. Envoy

JN082235 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] In Damascus, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt contacted the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and strongly protested the unjustified barbaric shelling carried out by the U.S. fleet of areas and villages on the mountain, which caused several casualties among innocent people.

In another development, the National Salvation Front, represented by former ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, has contacted the ambassadors of states participating in the Multinational Forces. The Front stressed the need for making the United States stop its irresponsible escalation of the military situation, which is jeopardizing the lives and property of Lebanese civilians. This shelling, the Front stressed, will have a dangerous impact on the interests of these states, specifically U.S. interests in Lebanon and the region.

Junblatt: Marines Withdrawal 'Maneuver'

JN082105 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Walid Junblatt, who met with Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning, met with the representatives of the Lebanese opposition this evening. Walid Junblatt said that the Americans' withdrawal may be a maneuver to carry out a joint Lebanese-Phalangist-U.S. military operation in order to storm West Beirut, especially after the destructive shelling to which West Beirut and some of the mountain villages were subjected today by the Americans. Junblatt said that scores of victims fell as a result of this shelling. He added that the nationalist forces will not be deceived by these maneuvers because they know that Reagan is an adventurer and will destroy Lebanon for the sake of preserving what he calls his policy toward the Middle East. From this position, Junblatt called on all the nationalist forces to fortify West Beirut politically and militarily in order to confront all eventualities.

A short while ago I learned that Walid Junblatt met with Lebanese envoy Jean 'Ubayd.

In another development today, which might be another reply to the U.S. escalation, a spokesman for the Fatah dissidents announced that Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], the dissidents' military leader who was named a director of the Palestinian revolution's central operations, held a high-ranking military meeting in the Lebanese town of Shtawrah. They decided, among other things, to stand on the side of the National Salvation Front's forces. They called on all the Palestinian forces in all Arab countries to return to Lebanon and fight with their brothers against the enemies.

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts Junblatt

JN082333 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, tonight telephoned Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt. Reporting this, the Libyan television network said that during the telephone contact, the two sides reviewed the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the current developments and the victories achieved by the Lebanese nationalist forces.

New Reagan Moves, Remarks Viewed

JN081622 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The states that have sent the Multinational Forces to Beirut are moving to withdraw their forces to their ships, to ask for converting them into UN forces, or to have them join UN forces. The United Nations, represented by its secretary general, has also moved to assume a role in the efforts that are being exerted to find a way out of the current situation in lebanon.

Some Lebanese rulers, who have involved themselves in accepting U.S. pressures, wagered on the U.S. position and role, and signed the agreement of submission that is called the 17 May agreement with Israel. They now begin to declare new positions that imply a retreat from previous positions which the majority of the Lebanese people had rejected. Those previous positions included justifications for defending the agreement, making compromises, and giving awards to the Israeli aggressors.

All these new moves might not be negative ones, especially since some of what is taking place, or will take place, is demanded by the political forces that represent the majority of the Lebanese people. But are these step too late? Was the spilling of all this blood and the deterioration of the situation necessary to convince people of certain facts that cannot be ignored or bypassed, especially since the majority of the Lebanese people categorically reject the 17 May agreement, any action that implies a surrender to Israel, any disavowal of Syria and of Lebanon's Arab commitments and relations, any U.S. trusteeship over Lebanon and the Lebanese regime, any relinquishment of independence and sovereignty, and any attempt to support any Lebanese faction against other Lebanese factions. Were all these developments, the bloodshed, and destruction necessary to convince some people inside and outside Lebanon and in Washington that 90 percent of the Lebanese people are opposed to the 17 May agreement, contrary to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' allegations during his talks in a certain Arab capital, one that is directly concerned with what is taking place in Lebanon.

Lebanon is an Arab country and not a U.S. state or a Israeli protectorate. The United States will never be able to set up and impose an agent government on Lebanon hostile to the people, to Syria, and the Arabs. It will also not be able to remove Lebanon from its history, geography, and relations with Syria and the Arabs and to turn it into a tool for U.S. imperialism, a U.S. military base, or an extension of Israel's security.

Those who are concerned about Lebanon and its national unity, existence, continuation, entity, and as a model of coexistence have warned from the beginning of the terrible dangers that would result from placing the Lebanese regime in U.S. and Israeli hands, making Lebanon a U.S. banana republic in the Middle East, and vanquishing the people through force of arms and internal and external military action. Those who are seeking their private interests that conflict with Lebanon's interests have contributed to the current deterioration of the situation in Lebanon. If the United States today attempts to defend its previous policy, claiming that what took place recently proves the readiness of the forces of violence and terrorism to realize a peaceful reconciliation, and claiming that the overthrow of a moderate government which is brave enough to move toward peace will not leave any hope for the moderate governments in the region to take risks and commit themselves to the same course — and this is taken from the statement made by President Reagan today — then the U.S. attempts to defend its previous policy only proves that the U.S. Administration does not want to recognize the objective realities or abandon the abortive methods that it had adopted to force the Arabs to surrender to the Israeli aggression. It also proves that the United States is more concerned with the weight of the gun than with the weight of principle although heavy and light U.S. guns failed to change realities in Lebanon, and are oppressing Lebanon's people and destroying Lebanon's Arab identity, ties, and commitments.

The current situation requires a real Lebanese national unity, a brave national action that will close the ranks; a popular, national rally around national aims to protect Lebanon's independence, land, the unity of its Arab identity, and the rejection of U.S. trusteeship and Israeli domination. Syria and all the Arabs support that Lebanese national unity.

AL-BA'TH Comments

JN090940 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspapers carry the following main headlines:

President Hafiz al-Asad, in a reply message to Reagan, says that our country's stands are firm and principled at the side of the Lebanese people in their struggle for their freedom, Arabism, and independence. U.S. warships shell Lebanese residential areas, inflicting heavy casualties. Washington says: Reagan ordered shelling. Pentagon approved new rules for military action. U.S. National Security Council convened. Military bases in Cyprus on alert. Zionist enemy says: Our contacts with Washington continue; our forces may enter Beirut. Moscow says: Washington's accusations against Damascus are empty. Marines' withdrawal from Beirut is an attempt at deception.

Under this last headline, the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* writes: Transferring the U.S. Marines from the Lebanese mainland to the Lebanese waters will not change the U.S.

military involvement in Lebanon. Judging by Reagan's threats against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces — threats that accompanied this new step — and by yesterday's acts of aggression by the U.S. warships, it may be said that the Reagan Administration is escalating its military involvement in Lebanon and the region. Thus, as a result of the continuous, blatant U.S. military threats, the Lebanese situation is expected to further escalate and deteriorate.

Reagan is intentionally ignoring the fact that it is impossible to decide the Lebanese situation militarily. However, events since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon have proved that the formula of victor and vanquished cannot succeed in Lebanon. No Lebanese faction can triumph over any other faction. Any government that does not rely on the support of the majority of the Lebanese people cannot continue, even if all of the fleets and forces of aggression in the world support it.

The failure of the recent escalation of the situation by the Phalangist government forces has affirmed that it is impossible to decide the issue militarily, despite the flagrant U.S. sea and air support. The Phalangists' failures have proved that only national unity can save Lebanon, because it is the means of solving the Lebanese crisis and the way out of Lebanese difficulties. The Lebanese nationalist interests cannot be reconciled with the aims of U.S. trusteeship and Israeli domination. Hence, the Lebanese crisis has proved that waiting for solutions from the U.S. Administration, which is closely allied with Israel, is a deadly illusion. The United States' solutions cannot be relied on because the United States has no Lebanese nationalistic policies in relation to the Lebanese events. It implements the policy of Israel, which is its main ally and tool in the region. *AL-BA'TH* affirms that betting on the U.S. role will lead to further concessions to the United States and Israel, and to further betrayal of national interests. The Lebanon experience has proved that U.S. hands do not hold the cards for a solution to the region's problems.

Concluding, the paper says: Lebanon's main task is to drive out the invading Israeli forces, cancel the 17 May agreement, and establish a patriotic government based on genuine Lebanese national unity. As for the U.S. forces, which ignited the civil war and became a party to the internal Lebanese dispute, they cannot be accepted either on Lebanese land or in Lebanese waters. They will be exposed to danger at sea just as they were exposed to danger on Lebanese land. They will escape danger when they totally withdraw from the area. There are undoubtedly limits to tolerating U.S. aggressive provocations against Syria and the Lebanese Nationalist forces. Facts have proved that the Lebanese Government becomes strong when it cooperates with the Lebanese people, Syria, and the Arabs; and that it becomes weak when it is allied with the United States and Israel. Ties between Syria and Lebanon are stronger than any ephemeral, external factors. These ties are the basis for Lebanon's triumph over its enemies.

In its "With the Events" column, *AL-BA'TH* also says that Reagan's decision to withdraw the Marines gives new evidence of his policy's failure in Lebanon. However, the U.S. Administration will not admit this failure. This is proved by the fact that when he decided to withdraw the Marines, Reagan openly threatened to use the U.S. warships' artillery to return any fire from positions under the Syrian forces' control. These aggressive U.S. intentions were corroborated at 1330 on 8 February when the U.S. warships began shelling all of the progressive and nationalist Lebanese positions in southern Beirut and the mountain, without warning or plausible justification. All of this proves that there is a new plot in the series of U.S.-Zionist plots that might be followed soon with more new plots aimed at using the U.S. forces — directly this time — to impose U.S. hegemony and control over fraternal Lebanon.

Lebanese Figures Leave Damascus

JN081441 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Former Lebanese Prime Ministers Dr Salim al-Huss and Rashid as-Sulh and former Lebanese minister Malik Salam left Damascus this morning after a 3-day visit to Syria during which they met with President Hafiz al-Asad. They were seen off at the Marksman Club near Damascus by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs. Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh and Dr Nasib al-Barbir, members of the Lebanese delegation, remained in Damascus.

U.S. Shelling Forces Return

JN081839 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Lebanese delegation comprising former Lebanese prime ministers and former minister Malik Salam returned to Damascus this afternoon after they had failed to reach Beirut as a result of the U.S. battleships and the Phalangist army and militias' shelling of the 'Alayh area and the roads leading to Beirut. The delegation left Damascus earlier today following a 3-day visit during which the delegation members met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Lebanon's Franjiyah, Karami Arrive

JN091039 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus — Former Lebanese President Shaykh Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Lebanese Deputy Dr 'Abdallah Ra'd arrived in Damascus this morning. 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs; and Faruq ash-Shar', Minister of state for foreign affairs received them on the outskirts of Damascus.

TISHRIN on U.S. Military Position, Options

PM081210 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 4 Feb 84 p 1

['Amid Khuli editorial: "The Threats and the Nation's Decision"]

[Text] Last week witnessed a rabid campaign of very clearly coordinated U.S.-Israeli threats against Syria, as the U.S. public and official pressure mounted on the Reagan administration for

the withdrawal of the Marines from the fatal trap in which Reagan had placed them in fulfillment of his administration's dirty designs for the region. It was quite obvious that the aim of the campaign was to shift onto Syria the blame for the U.S. Administration's mistakes in its handling of international conflicts.

By claiming that Syria's attitude to the conflict and the U.S. role, especially in Lebanon, is an obstacle in the way of peace, the U.S. Administration is actually blaming Syria for the U.S. Administration's unsuccessful handling of the crisis and maintaining that the deadly trap into which Reagan led the Marines is actually a Syrian trap. The aim is to turn the American public and institutions against Syria and its just approach to all aspects of the conflict and to absolve Reagan and his erring administration of any responsibility for the foolish decision to involve the Marines and make them a party to and a participant in a local conflict between people of the same nation.

Of course, the talk about peace is part and parcel of the American concept of peace, which the Arabs now know only too well. It is peace which simply and briefly means complete surrender to the will of the United States and Israel and elimination of the national and pan-Arab decision.

To go back to the threats made in turn by Nixon, Kissinger, Shamir and David Levi, the first two were the top officials in a previous administration and, in their threats, they held Syria responsible for the failure of the peace efforts and claimed that Syria was the obstacle. The other two are Israelis, and the threats they made were threats of aggression against Syria. This is what is meant by U.S.-Israeli coordination, and the purpose is to justify to the world any stupid Israeli aggression against Syria, "the obstacle to peace," American style.

It was not hard to understand the statements of the Zionist chief of staff. They were crystal clear. He went so far as to say that Israel has prepared plans for attacking Syria. Any such aggression will undoubtedly be in complete coordination and by joint decision with the United States. The United States knows that its own ability to settle the issue militarily is very limited, if not nonexistent, because its striking force in the Mediterranean is below the level required to settle the issue strategically, bearing in mind the present balances of power. Our leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, was clear and specific 2 days ago when he emphasized that such a settlement is impossible.

Settling the issue decisively and scoring a strategic U.S. victory would require many times the present available capabilities, which would mean more involvement and fatal attrition of these forces and capabilities at a time when the Reagan administration can hardly tolerate even the present level of attrition because Reagan is entering an election battle. He would lose both battles and he would depart without leaving any positive mark on American history.

We hope that the U.S. Administration will think hard about President al-Asad's eloquent analysis. President al-Asad has said that the United States has only two options: withdrawal, or more military involvement. But it is impossible to settle the issue militarily.

Obviously Syria does not want to fight the United States, in fact it cannot fight that superpower. But it is equally obvious that Syria cannot possibly drop its only option of self-defense if the United States imposes battle and aggression. In that case Syria will dazzle everyone in its battle of self-defense and turn all calculations upside down in its endeavor to preserve its great national will. When it comes to preserving this will and refusing to make concessions or bargain over national rights, Syria is prepared to sacrifice everything and will crush every aggression. It has the means and capabilities to fight an honorable battle, with results worthy of our nation and our national pride.

Syria may not be able to impose everything it wants on the region, but it has the power to reject what it and the nation do not want and to reject the presence of the Marines, the U.S. designs, and the U.S.-Israeli agreement in Lebanon known as the May agreement. It can block the implementation of that agreement and prevent the implementation of anything that runs contrary to the aspirations of the masses and the nation.

With our nation's support, it will soon be able to impose what this nation wants. The day when Syria will be able to impose the nation's will on its enemies is not far off. Perhaps the talk about aggression and the mounting U.S.-Israeli threats are meant to abort this strategic and qualitative transformation process in which Syria is engaged in order to impose the nation's will. We are very well aware of this, and are making adequate preparations.

Schiffer Reports on Shamir Briefing of Ministers

TA081129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1117 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer from Knesset in Jerusalem]

[Text] The prime minister convened the ministers a few minutes ago for an extraordinary meeting here, in the Knesset building, with the intention of updating them on the situation, the battles in Beirut, the contacts held with U.S. representatives over the last 24 hours, and U.S. President Reagan's decision to pull the Marines out of Beirut.

The prime minister will emphasize to the ministers that in the message he received from the U.S. President he was informed that President Reagan has decided to remove the Marines but that this will not be carried out rashly. This is a process which will last a few weeks; and even then, several hundred Marines will remain in Beirut. President Reagan, as well as the U.S. personages with whom the prime minister conferred yesterday, made it clear to Shamir that the United States will in the coming days increase its intervention in events in Lebanon in an attempt to maintain some of the status of Amin al-Jumayyil. We can disclose that the Americans are not shooting in Beirut today for one reason only: weather conditions. However, the means at the disposal of the Marines, namely, the Navy ships and the planes, may well act in the coming days, when they can be operated, against targets in Lebanon, in order to help Amin al-Jumayyil against the other militias.

Another matter which Shamir will brief the ministers on is Israel's attempt to continue to reach certain local security arrangements in southern Lebanon. Both in briefings and internal consulations the prime minister emphasizes that despite the fact that Amin al-Jumayyil may fall, Israel will continue to adhere to its objectives of reaching certain security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Cabinet Makes No Decisions

TA081445 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon the Cabinet heard reports about the latest developments in Lebanon, including President Reagan's decision to remove the Marines. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that no decisions were made, but the Cabinet will discuss Israel's next moves in Lebanon at its weekly session on Sunday [12 February].

Next Meeting 12 Feb

TA081555 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The next weeks will be the test for the intentions and ability of the United States in Lebanon, government sources told our political correspondent. The Cabinet held a meeting today in its capacity as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and heard a report about the situation in Lebanon. The Cabinet plenum will discuss its future moves in Lebanon in its meeting next Sunday. Most ministers believe that Israel's presence in Lebanon should be reduced. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] Government sources today argued that one should not rush to label the latest U.S. moves in Lebanon as a failure. It has emerged that President Reagan dedicated the lion's share of his letter to the prime minister to the moves the United States intends to make to protect Al-Jumayyil's regime. In fact, Washington undertook to effect a more aggressive policy in Lebanon. It was noted in Jerusalem today that if the transfer of the Marines to the 6th Fleet ships actually means that they are pulling out, this might have far-reaching implications on the U.S. status in this region and in the world at large.

As for future developments in Lebanon, it is assessed in Jerusalem that the Syrians and the opposition in Lebanon have now stopped their advance and will make no further moves to topple Al-Jumayyil's regime in light of the U.S. threat. Moreover, political circles in Jerusalem assess that the Syrians, at least at this stage, will not seek to replace Al-Jumayyil but rather to turn him into a puppet along the lines of Ilyas Sarkis. The Syrians will want Al-Jumayyil himself to call off the agreement with Israel following Damascus's dictates.

At the initiative of Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, the ministers convened today to hear reports about the situation in Lebanon. This was declared a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. The discussion on Lebanon will resume on Sunday and proposals may be raised for future moves.

Today it appears that there is no chance for a formal security arrangement in Lebanon that would include a central and strong Lebanese Government. Jerusalem and Washington are both in the dark about the ways to solve the Lebanese question. At least among the politicians in Jerusalem there is a larger consensus than ever that efforts should be made to reduce the Israeli presence in Lebanon. Plans about a withdrawal to a more reduced strip may be raised shortly. If security arrangements are reached they will be informal. One of the ministers told us today: The Shi'ites, the Druze and even the Christians will not cooperate with us on their own initiative. We must exploit the rivalry among the various factions and strike a balance between them. However, it is not clear how one goes about doing this. Another minister said today that Lebanon is quicksand and he who moves is bound to sink in it; the time has come to move on. [end recording]

Alignment Urges Completion of Security Arrangements

TA081450 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1424 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee have called on the government to complete the security arrangements in southern Lebanon rapidly and to pull the IDF out of there. They held a meeting to discuss U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to pull the Marines out of Lebanon.

At the end of the meeting, MK Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Sha'ul Stav: We have never drawn a link between the

security arrangements in southern Lebanon and the Marines' presence in Beirut. For 1 and 1/2 years we have not understood what we are doing in Lebanon. The security arrangements must be concluded at once and we should get out, Peres stated.

Issues Communique

TA081919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Alignment accuses the government of unnecessarily prolonging the Israeli presence in Lebanon by posing impractical conditions. Therefore, security arrangements which could have been attained some months ago cannot be achieved at present. If the remaining possibilities are not exhausted, the Alignment cautions that Israel might get out of Lebanon without any security arrangements whatsoever.

Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that this communique was issued at a meeting of the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. According to them, the security of the northern settlements and the IDF's pullout from Lebanon must include the following clauses: expanding the jurisdiction of the UN force and local forces opposed to terrorism; and ensuring Israel's deterrent ability.

Peres Outlines Lebanon Policy of Labor Party

TA081524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Labor Party believes Israel should not undertake any action in Lebanon, even if Al-Jumayyil's regime is in danger. Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said it is necessary to guarantee peace for the Galilee through security arrangements in southern Lebanon, with the help of international and local forces, as well as early-warning apparatuses, and bring the IDF back home. Shim'on Peres was talking to our correspondent Arye Golan following consultations held by the Alignment members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Peres Interviewed on Situation

TA082014 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says there is now a tangible danger that Lebanon might become a confrontation state with Israel. Mr Peres has said that the IDF must reorganize for such an eventuality. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal asked MK Peres what he thinks would be the impact of the pullout of the U.S. Marines on Israel's interests in Lebanon.

[Begin videotape] [Peres] There is something more serious than President Reagan's decision and that is the downfall of the central government in Lebanon; this is actually the problem. In other words, the government does not rule; soldiers have deserted from the Army; and Lebanon not only poses the threat of terrorists at present but has also become a strategic problem for Israel.

[Segal] How do you think Israel should proceed?

[Peres] In my opinion, Israel must do two things: First, despite everything, bring the IDF home and effect those clauses in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement necessary for its security — those four or five points about the right to conduct surveillance flights, the right to patrol the shores, the right to maintain intelligence units — and announce, since chaos will now prevail in Lebanon, that if the terrorists return we will proceed in each case cautiously and according to our needs to prevent a terrorist infrastructure from reemerging there. Secondly, the army must be properly prepared. I am very worried about the change that has occurred in Lebanon. This is no longer the same Christian country it used to be but rather a country with an extreme Muslim Shi'ite element which might join the Syrian front.

[Question] Are you hinting at the possibility that the army may not be prepared for the far-reaching changes now taking place in Lebanon?

[Answer] No, I am not saying that it is not prepared. What I am saying is that it must become prepared for the future. It is no secret that our presence in Lebanon somewhat disrupts army training and the renewal of its warfare capability.

[Question] Does President Reagan's decision not harm U.S. credibility in the region?

[Answer] I would say that it harms the U.S. ability to assess current and future situations because a partnership depends not just on the Americans but also upon the other country in the partnership. There is no doubt that the way things are going it turns out that the Americans proved to be an unstable support which delayed the decisions of all sides. Instead of having Al-Jumayyil set up a government at once and start operating, they procrastinated; and this is now the price. [end videotape]

No Military Operation To Help Al-Jumayyil Planned

TA081630 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Israel knows that if Al-Jumayyil's regime collapses this will have negative repercussions on the situation in southern Lebanon. However, Israel will not initiate a military operation to help the Lebanese president. This was learned by our military correspondent from security sources who went on to say: The Shi'ites in southern Lebanon are radicalizing their position toward Israel. Our military correspondent Doron Rosenblum reports:

[Begin recording] Sources in the Defense Ministry reiterated today: Israel will under no circumstances initiate a military operation to save Amin al-Jumayyil's endangered regime. Calls for help from Beirut were not heeded by Jerusalem. The Americans have so far not asked Israel to intervene in the events in the Beirut area. Nevertheless, the sources emphasized, Israel and the United States are operating in close cooperation. Both countries may enter a dialogue to examine ways to have Israel influence what is happening there, without resorting to a military operation — the military sources once again took pains to emphasize.

Israel knows that a victory of the forces operating against the Lebanese Government would be detrimental for it, but it is not prepared to initiate a far-reaching operation to change the situation. Our main objective, authoritative sources emphasized, is to find security arrangements in southern Lebanon, to prevent terrorists from reaching that area and to maintain the security of the northern border settlements.

If Al-Jumayyil's regime collapses, this will have negative repercussions for Israel. One of them will affect southern Lebanon: A significant part of the elements with which we have been holding contacts there make cooperation with us against the terrorists conditional on, among other things, a central Lebanese Government. The collapse of Al-Jumayyil's regime will close some of Israel's options. The Shi'ites in southern Lebanon are already now becoming more extreme and, as the sources phrased it, are becoming bold. A victory of the Shi'ites in Beirut would lead to a further exacerbation of the situation in the territory controlled by Israel.

Another aspect concerns the Syrians, who are the ones who give advice, supply ammunition, and direct the forces currently operating against Al-Jumayyil. At times, they even assist with cannon fire from their territory. It is feared in Israel that if the Syrians bring about Al-Jumayyil's downfall, they will move ahead and try to directly influence events in southern Lebanon.

What are the next possible developments in Beirut? Well, there are three possibilities: First, a military collapse and the downfall of Al-Jumayyil's regime. This possibility seems dimmer now that the United States has shown, by drawing the battleship *New Jersey* into action, that it will not allow Al-Jumayyil's regime to collapse. The second possibility is a political collapse, followed by an appeal from Amin al-Jumayyil to Damascus, the Druze and the Shi'ites. The third possibility: A new balance where the position of the Lebanese Government and the president are weaker. [end recording]

Revocation of Lebanon Accord Expected
TA081715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer — live in the studio]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi was the one who asked Yitzhaq Shamir to convene the ministers to hear reports on events in Lebanon, sources close to Minister Levi reported. The briefings were made to the forum of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which is why we are unable to report on it. In any case, no resolutions were adopted today. Next Sunday the ministers will hold a comprehensive debate on Israel's moves in light of events in Lebanon.

The Americans have already taken action. Parallel to the removal of the Marines, the United States has stepped up its involvement by way of shelling targets from the coast.

As for the future, the main assessment voiced this evening by political sources in Jerusalem is that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will very soon declare the revocation of the agreement Lebanon had signed with Israel on 17 May 1983. That accord, which has never been ratified, will be revoked following the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines. Amin al-Jumayyil could thus become a president under Syrian aegis and protection, or a kind of Ilyas Sarkis. Damascus is adamant in demanding the revocation of the accord with Israel — a symbol of Jerusalem's achievement from the war in Lebanon.

The policymakers in Israel are now talking solely about finding security arrangements for southern Lebanon as a precondition for the IDF pullback from there. As for other hostile organizations in other parts of Lebanon, the Israeli answers for the future will be the same as they have been: Israeli attacks against the bases of these organizations.

Ambassador Urges Israeli Restraint on Accord Issue
TA081940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] U.S. Ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis suggested that Israel abstain from voicing its firm protest if Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil decides to go back on the agreement Lebanon signed with Israel, our correspondent Yisra'el Segal has learned. The ambassador made these remarks in a conversation with Deputy Director General Hanan Bar-On. Ambassador Lewis told Bar-On that Israel should abstain from voicing its protest in order to strengthen the Lebanese president's disintegrating regime. Mr Bar-On replied that he would report on the ambassador's proposal to his superiors and added that in his opinion Israel would under no circumstances by able to abstain from voicing its firm protest if the agreement with Lebanon is really revoked.

Government Asked U.S. To Postpone Withdrawal
TA090819 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Israel asked the United States to postpone the beginning of the Marines withdrawal from Beirut by 1 or 2 days in order to allow events in the city to clear up a bit. This request was submitted 2 days ago during the meeting with Ambassador Samuel Lewis and was transmitted to Washington. Political circles in Jerusalem said yesterday that there is no room for complaints against the United States, because ever since the Multinational Force first arrived in Beirut, Israel has claimed that it was not asked to come there, which is why it was likewise not asked to stay there.

A top Jerusalem political source said yesterday that the U.S. moves will not affect the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. *HA'ARETZ* has learned that in the Reagan message to Shamir, the U.S. President expressed the hope that Israel has no intention of forsaking Lebanon, and emphasized that the Americans will not desert that country, noting that his decision has to do with a redeployment of the U.S. forces rather than their evacuation. Reagan explained that the redeployment

is intended to improve U.S. positions after it was learned that the Marine contingent is too small to effectively control the fighting area. In his message, Reagan praised the Lebanese Army, stating that it is in the process of improving itself and absorbing sophisticated equipment from the United States. It has been learned that a few hours after the message was received, Jerusalem was uncertain regarding U.S. intentions and had the impression that the United States meant to postpone announcing the transfer of the Marines to the aircraft carriers.

Senior Source Comments on Defense Options in Lebanon

TA090558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] A senior source in the defense establishment says Israel will make a great effort not to perpetuate its presence along the Al-Awwali. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal who spoke with this senior source is in the studio and reports that deliberations are underway in the defense establishment over the deployment in southern Lebanon. All of Israel's options are being examined.

[Tal] What will Israel do if Beirut decides to cancel the Israeli-Lebanese agreement? What will be the effect of the withdrawal of the Multinational Force? What kind of deployment is called for by the new situation developing in Lebanon now? The defense establishment will have to give answers to all these in the coming days. Deliberations are now under way on these issues, which are at the top of the defense establishment's agenda, the senior source said. He said he does not believe that the new developments will compel Israel to remain on the Al-Awwali indefinitely. If a hostile regime emerges in Beirut and the Al-Awwali becomes a confrontation line, there will have to be a reassessment of the situation, he said, but Israel will make enormous efforts to refrain from perpetuating the stay in the present line. The situation in Beirut is unclear, he said. The staff at our representation in Ad-Dubbiyah, north of Beirut — a Christian area — is still there and it includes only essential staff, who will remain there as long as this does not endanger their lives.

U.S. Pullback Makes IDF Withdrawal Easier

TA090615 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by defense affairs correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] The withdrawal of U.S. Marines and other elements of the Multinational Force from Beirut has reopened avenues for Israel to consider redeployment along a new line in Lebanon, senior sources in Jerusalem said.

Until now, one of the major stumbling blocks before such redeployment was American opposition to unilateral moves by Israel in south Lebanon as long as the Marines were still bogged down in Beirut and the Lebanese Army is unable to fill the vacuum that would be created. But now that the Marines are disengaging themselves from Beirut, Israel will be able to reconsider its own future moves in Lebanon unhindered by American opposition, the sources said.

The Israeli goal is to link an integral Lebanese brigade with the skeleton of the late Major Sa'd Haddad's forces in south Lebanon, in close cooperation with the Israel Defence Forces, to meet Israel's security needs in the south.

But events of the past few weeks have demonstrated that the government of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will be unable to provide such a brigade, for both political and military reasons, in the foreseeable future. This forces Israel to rethink its basic position.

Most military experts are advocating a redeployment of Israeli forces along a line close to the Az-Zahrani River in the west, thus cutting the population under Israel's control by more than half but leaving the strategic depth needed to keep the north safe from rocket attack. No redeployment is advocated in the Al-Biqa' valley, where Israeli forces stand in a nose-to-nose situation with the Syrians.

Debate on a pullback continues, but most of the defence establishment favours giving up Sidon, its increasingly hostile population of 150,000, predominantly Shi'ite and Sunni Moslems.

In addition to the demographic benefits, such a move would enable the IDF to cut the size of its force in Lebanon and to concentrate its anti-terrorist resources more effectively. The move will also dramatically increase the percentage of Christians among the population under Israel's control, giving Haddad's forces a better chance of being effective.

Simultaneously, those advocating the move argue that relations could be improved with the relatively apolitical Shi'ite communities that would remain under Israeli control, though several villages have shown signs of fundamentalist influence with religious leaders openly calling for all-out war against the IDF.

The new move, if it comes, will probably not come before the spring, since current weather conditions make it almost impossible.

In the Al-Biqa', there will be no Israeli move unless it is matched by Syrian concessions. Israeli officials point out that Israeli cannon 23km from Damascus and IDF control of crucial parts of the valley — the "backdoor" to Damascus — are "the only cards we have" vis a vis Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Israel will not give up these "cards" unless the Syrians make it clear that they will help stabilize the Lebanese regime, clamp down on the Shi'ite fighters and control the PLO.

Israel is apparently willing to live with a continued Syrian military presence in Lebanon, provided that it does not improve Syria's strategic positioning for war against Israel.

The officials also reiterated that under no circumstances will Israel become involved in a military attempt to prop up the Al-Jumayyil government, regardless of what happens in the north.

"We made that mistake once before and will not repeat it," one official said.

Government Warns Al-Awwali 'Not Closed Border'

TA091114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Israel is making it clear to hostile elements in Lebanon that the Al-Awwali line is not a closed border and that if the IDF's security in southern Lebanon is threatened, Israel will be able to act beyond this line as well.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that contacts between Israeli elements and Lebanese Druze are continuing. Israel demands that Junblatt's Druze prevent terrorists from reaching the contact lines [qavey maga'] with IDF forces in the Al-Awwali area, and in return Israel will take care that the Druze villages in Ash-Shuf are not harmed. So far the Druze have fulfilled this arrangement. Israel is holding indirect contacts with Shi'ite community leaders on the basis of the assessment that it was an error to rely on only one community.

Fear, Concern Reported in Southern Lebanon

TA081244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpts] IDF observations along the Al-Awwali and in the eastern sector do not indicate any special preparations or activity as a result of events in Beirut. However, our correspondent Hayim Hecht, who visited southern Lebanon this morning, has learned from talks with local residents that the Beirut events have prompted fear and concern.

[Hecht — live] The Druze stock is skyrocketing now. This week they repaid the Shi'ites and the leftist militia for their help in taking control of the Ash-Shuf region. With the Druze in the lead, a traffic route was opened yesterday from the Ash-Shuf into the heart of Beirut via Ash-Shuwayfat and Al-Awza'i. However, the Druze take care that the terrorists do not make use of this route to establish footholds on the southern slopes of the [Ash-Shuf] mountains.

Last night and this morning Druze delegations transmitted messages to Jerusalem and to IDF commands in Lebanon saying: The understanding between us is valid. They added that it is about time that Israel understands that they are the right horse to back in Lebanon. The dividend they are seeking for their rising stock is Israeli aid in establishing a Druze canton from the Hasbayya and Rashayyah in the east to the coast in Khaldah, extending over the Ash-Shuf mountains in the middle.

The Shi'ites in southern Lebanon are not bursting with joyful demonstrations. The clergy too at this point is refraining from taking advantage of the success of the militia in Beirut for street demonstrations in An-Nabatiyah and Tyre. We will wait a little until the situation stabilizes, a gendarmerie soldier from An-Nabatiyah told me. An IDF soldier who listened to the talk commented: I hope that the basic message has been understood by them; there are shellings and burials in Beirut while here there are peaceful school classes and trade.

The leaders of the Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon manifest a great deal of concern and nervousness. They read the political developments and fear a new withdrawal by the IDF. Yesterday they appealed to the representatives of the International Red Cross in Sidon and complained that the IDF has gone back somewhat on its promise regarding 'Ayn Hulwah and Al Miyah wa Miyah. The IDF officers rushed to calm down tempers: We are still here and as long as this is the case nobody will harm you. The Palestinians were not soothed since their political feelings too indicate that the developments in Beirut will mean significant moves shortly in southern Lebanon also.

UNIFIL Command Lodges 'Sharp' Protest With IDF

TA090604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The UNIFIL command has submitted a sharp protest to the IDF over what it called an intolerable wildness on the part of armed militia groups in southern Lebanon. This was reported by Hayim Hecht. There were four incidents this past week between Shi'ite militia fighters and UNIFIL soldiers. The gravest incident took part yesterday between a Ghanaian patrol and civilian guards in the village of (Shaghral). A civilian guard was critically wounded in the course of the exchanges of fire and three guards were detained.

It is assumed that the Shi'ites are trying to harm the UN soldiers since, according to them, they serve as President Al-Jumayyil's representatives in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent notes that IDF liaison units are making great efforts to prevent incidents.

Sharon Criticizes U.S. Actions in Beirut

TA090713 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Report by Charles Hoffman]

[Text] Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon said last night that the deterioration of the situation in Beirut could have been prevented "if the Americans had listened to us earlier, and if the opposition and part of the news media had not caused us to squander the achievements of the war."

Responding to aggressive questioning from a panel of three reporters on Israel Television's Moqed, Sharon said that only drastic American action now could rescue the Christian regime in Beirut.

"The U.S. should secure the road leading south from Beirut to Sidon. Without this link, the Christians cannot continue to exist." The U.S. must also insist on Lebanese implementation of the May 17 agreement with Israel. He said the withdrawal of the Marines is a hard blow with far-reaching implications.

Recalling the first year of the war, when he was defence minister and Menahem Begin prime minister, Sharon asserted that U.S. President Ronald Reagan fully understood the Syrian and Soviet threat to Lebanon's freedom, "but he was misled by special envoy Philip Habib, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Nicholas Veliotes and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

Sharon vigorously and repeatedly denied that he has evaded responsibility for the war. "I never ran away from my responsibility as a Cabinet member and as minister of defence," he said.

Responding to accusations that he misled the Cabinet and the public on the war, he reiterated his proposal for a full-scale investigation of the war. This would include the examination of Cabinet protocols and also of the role of the opposition and the news media.

Replying to charges made in the Knesset yesterday by Victor Shemtov (MAPAM) that his statement about Yosi Sarid was an incitement to murder, Sharon showed pictures of slogans painted on walls which said, "Sharon is a murderer," "Death to Sharon — Emil" [Grunzweig] and the name "Sharon" with a swastika. "This is the real incitement," he said. "Where did people learn this if not in Peace Now demonstrations?"

Sharon Declares Intention To Run for Premiership

TA091139 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1131 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has declared that he will run for the Herut Movement candidacy for the premiership. Appearing an hour ago before students from Bar-Ilan University, Sharon announced that the next time there is a contest in the Herut Movement to elect the movement's candidate for prime minister, he will run with the intention of becoming prime minister. Sharon's remarks were reported by our correspondent Uri Ginosar.

Tzipori on Mistakes Made During Lebanon War

TA090726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Communications Minister Tzipori spoke in Jerusalem yesterday about mistaken assessments and complications we ran into in Lebanon. The communications minister added that deliberations are now underway as to how to guarantee Israeli control over events in southern Lebanon. When a decision is reached, the intention is to leave there as small an IDF force as possible, if any. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein brings us Minister Tzipori's remarks.

[Begin recording[[Einstein] Appearing before the Likud's forum on economic and political affairs, Minister Tzipori said that books are now being written about the war in Lebanon and that he hopes that truth will come to light.

We are definitely entangled in Lebanon, the communications minister added. Amin al-Jumayyil has only a slight chance of continuing in office but this should not interest us. We have one single interest: to secure peace in the Galilee and prevent the terrorists from reorganizing.

[Tzipori] We are trying to figure out how to control what is happening in southern Lebanon. We are holding deliberations on this now. When the government decides on a plan, we will move as quickly as possible to reduce the size of the IDF in Lebanon to the bare minimum, if at all. In my opinion, there were a number of errors in our analyses of Lebanon; and we are now paying for it to a certain degree; and this is an understatement. [end recording]

Morning Press Comment 8 Feb

TA081158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] *DAVAR* says we should not intervene in events in Beirut although the recent developments in Lebanon are not in our favor and signify the increased influence of pro-Syrian elements, which will probably also begin to reestablish the PLO forces. We should understand now that we did not understand in June 1982. Israel should secure its northern border regardless of the composition or nature of the regime in the capital of a neighboring country.

THE JERUSALEM POST says that, in the meantime, Jerusalem has to accept that there is no chance that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement — which played an important role in tightening relations with the United States — will be ratified or ever implemented. It also seems that Jerusalem has accepted that Israel's security interests in southern Lebanon will have to be maintained in different ways. On this matter the United States should be able to bank, if not on Israel's outright approval, then on its tacit acquiescence in a deal that might be struck with the Syrians, unless President Reagan of course decides that nothing can be salvaged from the chaos in Lebanon and that it is preferable to bring the Marines home without bothering to reach any agreement with the Syrians.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that we and the Multinational Force have nothing left to do now but to withdraw and watch the unavoidable tragedy of the Christians in Lebanon. However, our hands have also shed this blood and we cannot claim innocence. Were it not for the insanity of the Peace for Galilee campaign, the delicate balance in Lebanon might have been maintained up to now. The only way by which the Israeli people can rid themselves of the Lebanese disgrace is to try former Defense Minister Sharon as the person directly responsible for what is emerging as one of the greatest disasters to befall the Jewish people since World War II. This man, who has managed to entangle both Israel and the United States, cannot escape responsibility and should be put on trial for his actions. He should be tried immediately, even before the last U.S. airplane leaves the burning city of Beirut.

Midday Press Comment 8 Feb

TA081114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *MA'ARIV* says that Israel is not committed to save the Al-Jumayyil regime. The government should determine its position according to the security needs of the Galilee residents

through contacts with the forces active in southern Lebanon. The Al-Jumayyil government lost control of West Beirut as well as any ability to influence arrangements in southern Lebanon.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT writes that the Soviets have the upper hand in the crisis in Lebanon. If the United States had supported close cooperation with Israel and Lebanon, it would have been successful. However, the administration preferred to dissociate President al-Jumayyil from Israel and to refrain from an active policy in Lebanon. The U.S. defeat in Lebanon, the paper believes, will also affect U.S. status in Western Europe and may even result in President Reagan's defeat in the elections.

PLO Groups Reported Reopening Beirut Offices

TA090627 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] According to Lebanese security sources, the Palestinians of the As-Sa'iqah group and the Fatah dissidents have begun to reopen all Palestinian offices and re-arm supporters in West Beirut. The sources said that the PLO office in Corniche Al-Mazra'ah, evacuated during the summer of 1982, was also being reopened.

Knesset Committee Discusses Karp Report

TA081530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] In a stormy discussion in the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee of the Karp report, Dov Shilansky, deputy minister for parliamentary affairs in the prime minister's office, attacked Yehudit Karp saying she had taken sides in the investigation. According to him, the report is one-sided and mistaken, and the settlers should be summoned so that their reactions can be heard. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that Deputy Minister Shilansky came to the meeting with a file of complaints against the attorney general's office. He charged that this office has given extensive handling to complaints against Jews but is one-sided in its treatment of Jews' complaints about Arabs.

Deputy Minister Shilansky also said he cannot trust Yehudit Karp unless she first present the manifesto which Karp maintains was signed by Elyaqim Ha'etzni [Qiryat Arba' attorney] and which states that there should be no cooperation with the authorities. Our correspondent has learned that Ha'etzni has not signed the manifesto but his name and address appear on it as an adviser on the question as to whether or not to cooperate in investigations. Ms Karp intends to bring the manifesto to the next meeting of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, next week apparently.

The opposition members of the committee condemned the attack by Shilansky on a civil servant, signed a letter of condemnation against him, and demanded that the justice minister defend Ms Karp. MK Moshe Shahal of the Alignment noted that the report is not by Ms Karp but by a committee she headed and which included representatives of the Interior Ministry and the police. He criticized them for keeping the report secret for more than 2 years while in the meantime the phenomena noted in the report continued. Minister Nisim repeated that there are no double standards in the territories, that the law is equal to all, and that investigations of terrorist acts perpetrated by Arabs have not been completed yet either. The interior minister said that the Defense Ministry and the military government are in charge of investigations in the territories.

Justice Minister Reacts

TA081211 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Justice Minister Moshe Nisim said yesterday the Karp report dealt with only one side of the coin, since it only examined complaints of Arabs against Jews in Judaea and Samaria, and not dozens of other cases in which Israelis were hurt — among them women and children — by Molotov cocktails, stone-throwing, and terrorist activity in Judaea and Samaria.

According to him, the leaks and the actual publication of the report did Israel a great injustice, since it created the impression that there is a policy of double standards between Jews and Arabs in the territories. Nissim stressed that in the last 6 years (from 1978 up to 1983) 23 Jews were killed and 227 injured in unsolved cases of terrorist activity.

Nisim stressed that following the government's decisions this week concerning the enforcement of law in Judaea and Samaria, measures will be taken to beef up manpower and budgets. "It is in the interest of the country to maintain law and order in Judaea and Samaria in order to enable coexistence between Jews and Arabs."

In reaction to Mrs Karp's statement that her resignation from the leadership of the commission stemmed from the fact that the report was ignored, Minister Nisim said that it was not correct that the report's findings were ignored. In November 1982 the report was given to the interior minister and for many months discussions were held on this subject by the special ministerial committee (Arens, Burg, and Nisim) to consolidate a law enforcement policy in Judea and Samaria, a policy which was approved by the government this week.

Editorial Criticizes 'Cover Up'

TA090628 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 84 p 8

[Second editorial: "Twenty-Month Cover-Up"]

[Text] Now that the Karp Report on law enforcement in the territories is at long last out, it is easy to understand why the governmental authorities affected by it were so anxious to block its publication for the past 20 months.

The authorities had reason to assume in advance that, if the report were to be based on an even less than thorough investigation, it would be acutely embarrassing for them. The investigation would never in fact have been conducted, and the report

never written, if it were up to the police and the army and their civilian superiors. It was an appeal by university law teachers, outraged by press accounts of failure to follow up cases of criminal offences by Jewish settlers against local Arabs, which prompted the attorney general, Prof Yitzhaq Zamir, to appoint what come to be known as the Karp Committee.

The report produced by the committee, and signed by Yehudit Karp, a deputy attorney general, is no literary masterpiece. Its conclusions obviously suffer from the insufficiency of the documentation made available to it by the interested government agencies.

Even so, the report bears out the initial suspicion that a systematic miscarriage of justice is being perpetrated in the West Bank. Jewish settlers, wishing to assert their rights to the area, take the law into their own hands and refuse — partly with encouragement from above — to cooperate in police investigations, while the police, deferring to the army, fail to stand on their own rights and the army tends to look benignly on those it views as its soldiers. The result all too often is that files are closed without anyone being booked.

Rather than search their consciences in the face of such a severe indictment, the parties guilty for this colonialist reality set out, even before the report was released, to hurl mud at Ms Karp and her report. But the attempted rebuttals were themselves scandalously untrue, when they were not merely ludicrously irrelevant.

Among the settlers, the favourite response seems to be to call for Ms Karp's resignation. Yet if anyone should resign in the present case, it is surely those high officials, notably Dr Burg, who were, or at least should have been, aware of the travesty of law enforcement in the territories but did not lift a finger to correct the situation. They preferred, and prefer, to distort the truth.

Sanctions by Workers in Defense Ministry Ended

TA090605 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The sanctions in the Defense Ministry are over. Last night telegrams were sent to procurement missions in the United States and Europe to renew their activity. The Defense Ministry workers will also transfer payments to suppliers, contractors, and plants and will release goods from customs.

Gaza Strip Notables Comment on Egyptian Attitudes

TA080840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Gaza Strip notables have noticed lately a considerable improvement in Egypt's attitude toward the Gaza Strip as part of its efforts to increase its influence in the region. The head of the Gaza Strip Citrus Growers Association, Hashim ash-Shawwa, returned from Egypt this past week, with encouraging promises in his pocket. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus talked with him.

[Begin recording] The atmosphere of improvement in Egypt's attitude toward the Gaza Strip was already apparent following former Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa's visit to Egypt a few months ago and his meeting with President Mubarak. A relative of his, Hashim ash-Shawwa, head of the Gaza Strip Citrus Growers Association and chairman of the Falastin Bank's board of directors, has just returned from Egypt and speaks of a warm reception, meetings with Egyptian Government officials, and Egyptian promises to aid needy people in the Gaza Strip. Hashim ash-Shawwa has observed an improvement in Egypt's position on the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, especially since the As-Sadat era. At the same time, he does not believe that Egypt wants to restore its control and sovereignty over the region but that Egypt does support the Palestinian cause.

Ash-Shawwa has then brought back promises of Egyptian aid for the needy, help for Gaza Strip students who want to study in Egypt, and help in marketing citrus fruit in Arab countries.

Other notables point out that Egyptian Embassy officials have recently made numerous trips to Gaza and that Egypt has stopped turning back Gaza residents at the border.

On the other hand, a change has taken place in the Gaza Strip residents' attitude toward Egypt. The defeat of the PLO in Lebanon enabled Egypt's supporters to express their opinion openly, to visit Cairo freely, and to develop various initiatives. The increasing inclination to lean toward Egypt can also be explained by the fear prevailing in the Gaza Strip following the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan and the emphasis on unity between Jordan and the West Bank without mentioning the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Settlement Department Regional Plan Reported

TA061028 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that an internal document which has recently been compiled by the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department reveals that 85 billion shekels (according to November 1983 rates) will be invested in the year 2010 in developing the engineering and employment infrastructure within the jurisdiction of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council in Judaea and Samaria, which stretches from the north of Jerusalem to the trans-Samarian road.

This document is part of a hefty book entitled "Comprehensive Regional Plan for the Mate Binyamin Regional Council" which has been kept secret so far. This is the first time that the Settlement Department has collaborated with the regional council (which is mostly composed of settlements belonging to the "Amana" movement affiliated with Gush Emunim) in preparing a thorough program of comprehensive regional planning for a Jewish regional council in Judaea and Samaria.

According to the plan, another 27 settlements will be established in the Mate Binyamin area by the year 2010. These settlements will be of both rural and urban character, and will include communal settlements and commuter settlements [toshavot]. The

document states that since the area (which is mostly mountainous) cannot provide employment to the entire projected population, some 55 to 60 percent of the settlers will hold jobs outside the area, particularly in employment centers in the big cities.

The plan meticulously elaborates the development stages of the area, and states that 14 new settlements will be established during the first stage (by 1986-1987) and the Jewish population (which currently amounts to 4,000 people in 20 settlements) will reach 22,000 people. During the second stage of the plan (by 2010), all the goals and objectives in terms of the deployment of the settlements, the increase of the population, and the development of employment sources and infrastructure will be implemented. Thus, within 26 years, some 190,000 Jews will live in 47 settlements in the area, compared with 240,000 Arabs (at present, some 155,000 Arabs live in 95 sites: 90 villages and 5 urban settlements).

The document goes on to say that the Jewish population will come mainly from the central region and Jerusalem, and will include families wishing to improve their living standards and quality of life. The authors of the document elaborate on the importance of establishing Jewish settlements in this area. They note that the area is devoid of settlements, which will be vital for regional control of the area. One of the main objectives of the plan is to achieve territorial control. Past experience shows that it is impossible to control a territory without a physical presence in the field. Arab settlements are currently speading over the area in an uncontrolled fashion.

The authors of the document further point out that the settlements on the mountain range are also important from the security point of view by virtue of being part of the deployment in times of emergency. Part of this deployment entails strategic security control over vital access axes in the area. It is also emphasized that these places are vital to creating a continuity of Jewish settlements, since the current location of the settlements in the region is purely incidental.

The chairman of the plan's steering committee, Dr Hayim Tzaban of the Settlement Department, states in his introduction to the document: "This plan deals with one of the key regions that is deeply ingrained in our history." According to him, the plan was given statutory status and has been submitted to the Supreme Planning Committee, and it can therefore be used as the basis for planning the area. Rafi Ben-Basat, who along with Uri Silverstone of the Settlement Department headed the area's planning team, points out that "the plan does not ignore the Arab sector and the real situation in the field." According to him, the comprehensive regional planning for the Mate Binyamin Council was translated into a regional scheme that is currently being examined and which, upon approval, will constitute the legal document according to which plans will be effected in the field.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that the two directors of the Settlement Department are fiercely at odds over implementation of this comprehensive plan. Matityahu Drobles (of Herut) is one of the initiators and staunchest supporters of the development plan; his colleague, Professor Ra'anan Weitz (Alignment), has reservations about it and is strongly opposed to establishing additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

West Bank Jordanian Parliamentarians Return

TA082004 Tel Aviv ITIM In Hebrew 1950 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 8 Feb (ITIM) — Festive welcoming ceremonies were held yesterday and today for a number of West Bank public figures who have recently been appointed members of the Jordanian Parliament, following their return from Amman yesterday.

There were jubilant celebrations in the streets of Qalqilyah upon the return of Ziyad Yunis, a newly-appointed parliamentarian. The local notables organized a big party for him, and a convoy of cars honked their horns for him while driving through the streets of the town.

Additional parliamentarians who returned from Jordan are (Misbah Kazimi) from East Jerusalem, and Edward Khamis from Bethlehem. They will now participate regularly in Jordanian Parliament sessions and will receive a salary of approximately 300 dinars a month from the Jordanians.

Knowledgeable sources believe that the job of the West Bank parliament members will be to serve as the Jordanian Administration's mouthpiece. Apparently their activity will be limited to signing petitions and publishing petitions and conducting information and propaganda campaigns in various sectors and among various circles.

HA'ARETZ Analyzes West Bank Situation

TA050844 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 84 p 5

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "A Reassessment for Judaea and Samaria"]

[Text] A bitter taste accompanied the resignation of Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia from his senior post in the administered territories. His trial appeared rushed and somehwat secret. The impression was that a hurried deal had been made, that there had been a desire to bring it to a quick conclusion, and that not many details of the accusation had been publicly released. Who was the girl soldier who was transferred from office to office and why was this so important that it was mentioned as an item in the accusation? Although it is correct to claim that conquest corrupts, that one nation's rule over another in a ratio of 2:3 distorts the norms of equality of the law as is proved by Yehudit Karp's report [dealing with lawlessness in the West Bank], it is impossible to find any justification for the Ilia affair in this political and sociological situation. To make things easier for Ilia because a conquering rule corrupts, is like forgiving a bank official who has embezzled because the money passing through his fingers has tempted him, or behaving with forgiveness toward a corrupt former Navy commander just because he met young female soldiers by virtue of his post. In 1984 every Jewish mother is entitled to know — as she was promised by the first defense minister, David Ben-Gurion — that her daughters and sons in uniform are given commanders and officers worthy of them.

However, in the circumstances created, it appears that Ilia's resignation was the minimum essential requirement. And perhaps it has opened the way to a reassessment of how matters were conducted in Judaea and Samaria during his short period in

office. His time in office was typified by two moves: To a certain extent he moderated the demands he made of the Palestinian extremists. He did not, for example, use pressure to get sufficiently clear commitments from the foreign lecturers at Bi'r Zayt University to refrain from activity in the service of the PLO, and, by so doing, it was as though he had unintentionally and very passively encouraged a certain presence by terrorist organizations in the West Bank. This was in line with the current government's views, since its attitude toward the PLO in the administered territories is two-sided: on the one hand, to pursue it and fight it, and on the other hand to identify the Palestinian position in general as extremist-terrorist in order to get out of negotiations over the future of a compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

The next move, which is linked with the previous one, was to eliminate the active basis of the Village Leagues. This is because the Village Leagues, despite their weakness and the fact that they are the fosterlings of the Israeli Administration, were an interesting, legitimate experiment. They tried to create an option for negotiations in which Jordan would participate, or at which Jordan would appear with a political backing originating in the territories themselves, and this was abhorred both by the PLO disciples, both Jews and Arabs, and by the Likud government.

The Village Leagues were not a real alternative to the PLO, certainly not since they were strangled at birth. The PLO was and remains stronger than they, and there is a high probability that there were no real chances for a change in Palestinian public opinion in the territories in support of the PLO. However, if Israel had really intended to hold compromising negotiations with Jordan, and if it had wanted time to work in its favor, it would have used this time to strengthen the leagues, at least so as to take the sole representation of the West Bank Palestinians away from the PLO. Thus, when the time came, there would be a junior partner at its side at the negotiating table.

The importance of the territories has actually been shown over the past few months. For many years it was considered that the voices of the Palestinians in Nabulus and Hebron would not play any central role in the Arab world's decisions. The centers of power were in Egypt, Syria and the PLO, which has in principle remained an organization in exile and which has failed completely in its basic objective of causing a general mass uprising in the territories. It now turns out that the Palestinian world is passing through the same process that occurred in Zionism: Those who live in Eretz Yisra'el carry great weight.

Yasir 'Arafat was expelled from Beirut by the IDF, and from Tripoli by the Syrians and those in the PLO who rebelled against him. Nevertheless, his political power is great in the Arab countries, the West, and the Soviet Union. The Jordanian king has good reason to meet with him because 'Arafat is guaranteed genuine support in Ramallah and Janin; and this cannot be changed, not by the policy of the Government of Israel nor the Kalashnikovs of the Fatah rebels.

'Arafat and Husayn now hold the key in their hands, and all the coordination recently worked out between Jerusalem and Washington in Lebanon and beyond — a pleasant achievement for Israel per se — will collapse if the Jordanians and the Palestinians reach an agreement about opening negotiations on the basis of President Ronald Reagan's plan, completely ignoring Camp David. The Palestinian population of the territories' support for Yasir 'Arafat will give these two sufficient weight to act in such a way.

This support has held firm even with Yasir 'Arafat's double defeat on the Lebanese battlefield, inter alia because Israel did not encourage his rivals in the administered territories. However, it is very doubtful if the Ilia affair will be accompanied by the Likud government's willingness to inject new blood into the deteriorating veins of the Village Leagues.

Knesset Demands Chile Expel Walter Rauff

TA090831 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 84 p 3

[Report by Knesset correspondent]

[Text] The Knesset is demanding that Chile expel Nazi criminal, SS Colonel Walter Rauff, so that he can be tried. Chile's refusal to expel Rauff and extradite him to Israel was raised yesterday at the Knesset in a motion to the agenda submitted by MK Shevah Weiss (Alignment).

MK Weiss approached the justice minister to bolster the Knesset's appeal by appealing to Chile and pressuring it to extradite Rauff to Israel, where he would stand trial. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim rejected Chile's formal reasons for justifying its refusal to extradite Walter Rauff. He repeated that Israel is prepared and wants to receive the criminal Rauff to put him on trial according to the law dealing with punishment for Nazis and their accomplices. The minister suggested that the Knesset dispatch a delegation to the Chilean Government carrying a message with the demand that Rauff be expelled. The Knesset unanimously resolved to send an announcement in its behalf, together with the minutes of the debate, to the Chilean authorities.

Economic Agreements Reached With Liberia

TA072028 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The Liberian finance minister is visiting in Israel. He has conferred with Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad and has concluded special financing terms which Israel would grant Liberia to purchase four 'Arava planes manufactured by the Israeli Aircraft Industries. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal reports that Israel and Liberia have agreed to train 14 Liberian pilots to fly the 'Arava planes. A political source in Jerusalem told our correspondent that budgetary constraints have recently hindered what the source called the momentum of Israeli penetration into the African Continent. The source said that a few weeks ago an African country was about to resume relations with Israel but because of $6 million this initiative fell through. Israel refused to give this sum to that African country and the latter appealed to the Saudi Royal Bank and received the money.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi, Junblatt Have 'Telephone Contact'

LD090735 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli 9 Feb (JANA) — There has been a telephone contact between the brother leader of the revolution and Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese National Salvation Front. This is part of an effort to follow up the march of pan-Arab fighting in Lebanon and unify efforts between the Arab revolutionary forces, in order to complete the liberation of Lebanon and stand up to any counterattack from the NATO forces, which were ousted by force yesterday from Beirut and fled in fear to their ships off the coast.

JANA has learned that these contacts are continuing in order to unify efforts and to escalate the struggle until final victory.

JANA Political Editor on Mubarak Morocco Visit

LD081759 Tripoli JANA in English 1647 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 5, Feb 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The political editor of the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY commented on the visit made by the head of the Egyptian regime to Morocco.

He said: The visit of the head of the Egyptian puppet regime to the sisterly country of Morocco forms a new, tragic event in the Arab series of shame. The visit itself, and its acceptance, is considered by all standards a walk away from Arab unanimity, destruction of all what had remained of the Arab League, an end to Baghdad's resolutions, as well as a permission, from now on, not to submit to Arab will, the resolutions of its summits, and the charter of its league.

All attempts to justify this event — that it comes in the context of the Islamic Conference Organization and had nothing to do with the Arab cause -- cannot by any means annul the outcome of this incident and limit its grave repercussions. What a mockery and what a humiliation! This excuse is much worse than the guilt itself. It is, in fact, an insult to Arab intelligence, belittling it as if these justifications are addressed were a child who might be overwhelmed into believing the tricks of the magician, and is taken aback by the innocence of their display of lies and slander. They justify their shameful action by falsehood as if the Arab world is a world of small children who will believe what they say and accept what they do.

To extend the invitation to the head of a regime which betrayed the cause and welcome him in an Arab capital creates a contradiction which is hard to believe and impossible to justify. That person — who recognized the enemy, submitted his country to the will of the occupier, hoisted the Zionist flag over the Egyptian capital, and made Cairo the defeated capital — well deserves to be beaten up and cursed, and not to be received with hospitality and respect.

The Arab who recognizes the enemy after half a century or more of continuous struggle, and after scores of thousands of victims fell in the battles of honour, is definitely betraying our sacred cause, selling us out, choosing the road to disgrace and siding with the enemy. Regardless of his clothes or features — whether he is a Muslim, an African or an existing neighbour — he will still be treated as an enemy.

After he committed his great sin towards his nation and peoples, no excuses can cover his shame. He is defiled and a cast-out, and his place is with the Satan enemy. It is wrong and unacceptable to invite him to a meeting or answer his requests. The least to be done is to expel and disown him, if it is impossible to purge him by shedding his blood.

To accept this visit under any pretext is to swallow the hook with new bait. This time it was the Islamic Conference framework, before that it was condolences at a funeral, and yet another time was a coincidental meeting at an international and [word indistinct]conference. Regrettably, this time the bait was caught, and the Arab nation became the victim.

If anything good could be expected from the enemy in terms of avoiding its evil by recognizing it, then the strong and heroic fighters who spent their lives fighting this enemy day and night would have done so. But all the facts, consequences, and even the lessons of history demonstrate that the enemy has a strategy that supercedes all the tactics and shortsightedness we have. All concessions we might make and recognitions we might confirm will not rescue us from whatsoever destiny it wants for us, as the limits of its ambitions and demands are endless. To recognize it now is only an acceptance of it in this stage, which paves the way for accepting it [words indistinct] in the near future [lengthy passage indistinct]

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Hassan Holds Talks With Egypt's Mubarak

LD081255 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Rabat, Feb 8 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco had here Tuesday a half hour talk with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt in the presence of Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed.

After the meeting, the director of the presidential cabinet for political affairs, Mr. Usamah al-Baz made the following statement to the Egyptian press:

"President Mubarak is visiting Morocco at the invitation of his Brother King Hassan II. The president wishes, first of all, to express his gratitude, and that of the Egyptian people for the stance adopted by Morocco during the recent Islamic summit. The two leaders will examine the Arab and international situation in the current circumstances as events follow one another and developments continue which require supportive action, coordination and an exchange of viewpoints".

He added that "President Mubarak will examine with the king the return of Egypt to the Islamic Conference Organization, particularly after the mission undertaken in Cairo by the Islamic commission led by Ahmed Sekou Toure (president of Guinea).

"The two leaders will also examine issues relating to the

Palestinian cause and the situation in Lebanon, especially after the latest developments in that country.

"His Majesty King Hassan II and President Husni Mubarak grant a particular importance to this issue, and it is very natural that they adopt the position required by the situation in Lebanon and the developments that may arise from this constitutional vacuum in this country, where conditions of security are deteriorating and hopes to reach a national reconciliation are fading away".

President Mubarak, who arrived here Tuesday afternoon, is accompanied by Mr. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy premier and foreign affairs minister, and Mr. al-Baz.

Mubarak-Hassan Talks Continue

JN081427 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The second round of talks between the two Arab leaders, Mubarak and King Hassan II, began at the Royal Palace in the Moroccan capital at 1400 today, Cairo time.

This round of talks was preceded by an official reception at the Royal Palace where the Moroccan monarch welcomed President Mubarak. The two leaders then stood on the palace balcony overlooking the big square, where token forces representing all Moroccan Army corps were lined up. The reception ceremony began with the Egyptian and Moroccan national anthems.

Meanwhile, a 21-gun salute was fired to welcome President Mubarak. His majesty the king then accompanied President Mubarak to his majesty's office to begin talks on the summit level.

Socialist Party Leader Bouabid Interviewed

Views Causes Behind Disturbances

PM071651 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Feb 84 pp 3,4

[Interview with Abderrahim Bouabid, minister of state and leader of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], by Huda al-Murr, in Rabat — date not given]

[Excerpt] Question: In the past few weeks, some disturbances occurred in Morocco. Also, some of your party members have been arrested. What is the reason, and how did you deal with the situation in your capacity as minister of state?

Answer: Yes, some arrests took place in the USFP ranks, as well as in the ranks of the Democratic Confederacy of Workers. Officially we did not participate in these incidents, some of which were spontaneous but which were exploited by certain organizations. This was due to the discontent in all the Moroccan sectors caused by the economic crisis we are experiencing, and to the high cost of living as well as to the shrinkage of purchasing power. There are a thousand reasons. Briefly, there is a general discontent which has been exploited by certain people to create disturbances.

Question: What do you mean by certain people?

Answer: I mean the organizations known as "March Forward" and those which raise Marxist-Leninist slogans. This is in addition to opportunist factions whose only concern is to seize opportunities to indulge in theft, plunder, and sabotage. We as a responsible organization do not approve of such actions, but at the same time we say that there are internal reasons and an internal crisis. This is due to the actions of the governments that have ruled Morocco in the past 20 years.

Speaking more plainly I would say that there are internal reasons and there are those who exploited the situation. For this reason we have often called for a democratic dialogue with the rulers in order to examine the situation and then take steps to deal with it before it reaches the point it has reached. The situation will not settle down unless there is a democratic system that enables the popular masses to choose personalities they can trust.

Question: You complain of a lack of democracy while several parties participate in government. Does this not constitute democracy?

Answer: Yes, there are parties, parties of varying degrees, some of which are representative while others are artificial. We are democrats and we want a true democratic system, even if partial and not 100 percent. This is what would enable those who speak on behalf of the Moroccan people to have some credibility. As for the artificial parties, we absolutely do not care for them and their existence does not mean that democracy exists.

Question: In his recent speech, King Hassan II said that there will be no increase in the prices of consumer goods. Is this enough to eliminate disturbances in Morocco finally?

Answer: There is no doubt that what the king said about no increase in prices of basic commodities was well received by the masses. I have repeatedly said in the government that it would be a serious mistake to increase prices in a manner that would burden the ordinary citizen. A temporary solution must be found for this crisis, particularly since we are passing through a difficult crisis, and in view of the pressure being brought to bear on us by the IMF. For this reason, the king's decision was correct and of interest to all the popular sectors. It was a successful and positive step, on the condition that after the elections it should be followed with radical steps that would enable us to overcome the internal problems that have been accumulating for the past 20 years.

Question: Do you think that the disturbances have ended once and for all?

Answer: At present, yes. As I said, we hope that there will be radical solutions in the future, after the elections.

LE MONDE Interview

PM081458 Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Jan 84 p 4

[Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "It Is Necessary to Improve the Public Sector and Administration"]

[Excerpts] Rabat — Mr Ben Barka's photograph is still faithfully hanging on the walls of the offices of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP] — the main opposition party, whose leader, Mr Abderrahim Bouabid, has accepted a post as minister of state in the coalition and transition government formed in November.

On Sunday, 29 January, party officials held a meeting to assess the situation following the disturbances and the arrests which followed them — on Saturday morning the lists included around 100 socialist party members who had been imprisoned, mainly secondary school students belonging to the USFP youth organization.

Receiving us in his modest home, Mr Bouabid showed that he has not lost his former freedom of speech because he is a minister:

The census ordered by the king in December showed that 40 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. All kinds of extremists find fertile ground in the revolt against excessive inequalities. "In Casablanca, there are some kinds of private mosques reserved for fundamentalists." The pro-Khoymeyni pamphlets which arrive through various channels find it easy to condemn corruption.

Nonetheless, Mr Bouabid stressed that no official could tolerate the acts of vandalism perpetrated by the thugs who joined the demonstrators. According to the minister of state, those distributing pamphlets included "Marxist-Leninists with accomplices in some French circles," and Algerian agents.

The defense of the Sahara was one of the two reasons which prompted the man who speaks as "opposition leader within the government" to accept the truce proposed by the king.

The other reason was to "ensure that the democratic process is rectified," clearly to limit electoral fraud as much a possible during the forthcoming parliamentary elections. According to Mr Bouabid, the king wants to hold a fair ballot but it will be very difficult to combat old habits, especially at the regional level, even with two USFP ministers in the government.

This government participation has always been described as temporary. Could it continue after the elections? Mr Bouabid does not rule out that hypothesis. But, if his party is invited to participate, it will only accept in order to implement a "minimum program." What would that program be? It is too early to discuss in detail. The party Central Committee is due to hold a meeting on this subject soon. "The first thing to be done would be to improve the management of the public sector, and to improve administration."

SUDAN

Egypt's Ghali Concludes Brief Visit, Departs

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN081206 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak and Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali held a meeting here yesterday.

In a statement to SUNA, a state minister at the Foreign Ministry,Mustafa Madani, announced that the meeting had touched on bilateral consultations and coordination between the two countries regarding the foreign and political affairs of the two countries in the Afro-Arab world. He went on to say that with regard to this matter, the meeting had discussed the organization of the diplomatic symposium scheduled to be held by Sudan and Egypt, in Khartoum next March.

Madani explained that in the symposium several papers on the issues of the Sudanese and Egyptian diplomacy will be presented. He pointed out that the meeting had touched on the recent visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to a number of African states, in addition to Ghali's visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti today. Madani announced that Dr Ghali would return to Sudan after concluding his visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti to hold another round of talks.

State Minister at the Foreign Ministry Mustafa Madani explained that Mubarak and Ghali also discussed the forthcoming meeting of the African states' foreign ministers which will be held in Ethiopia beginning Feb 27.

Diplomats to be exchanged between Sudan and Egypt will be carried out during the upcoming monthes for gaining, diversfying and exchanging experiences between the Egyptian and Sudanese diplomatic corps.

Holds News Conference, Departs

JN081640 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has announced that his mission in Ethiopia and Djibouti is related to the African foreign ministers' conference which will be held in Addis Ababa at the end of this month as a prelude to the convocation of the next African summit in Conakry.

In a news conference at the Sudanese Information Ministry today, prior to his departure for Addis Ababa, Dr Ghali said he will discuss with the Ethiopian and Djibouti officials three issues related to Namibia, the Western Sahara, and Chad. In this regard, he stressed the need for preparation to handle these issues and make the conference successful.

Dr Butrus Ghali indicated that Egypt and Sudan do not recognize the Saharan Republic, and consider its presence in the OAU illegitimate. He added that this subject is causing division among

the states which support the Saharan Republic's presence in the OAU and those which oppose it; a matter which obstructs the OAU's mission. He said further that we must hold consultations with the Ethiopian side in order to find a solution to the difference over the Polisario's presence, which constitutes a danger threatening the OAU.

Regarding the Chadian question, Dr Ghali emphasized that Egypt and Sudan support the legitimate government in Ndjamena. He said that the failure of the conference held in Addis Ababa at the beginning of this year between two groups representing Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei will be a topic of discussion at the next ministerial meeting. At least we must get ready to confront this crisis, he added.

Regarding the Namibian issue, Dr Ghali said: Our stand in both Egypt and Sudan is clear, and based on the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 435 on the withdrawal of South Africa's forces and the independence of Namibia. He added: We refuse to link the presence of the Cuban forces in Angola and the withdrawal of South Africa's forces from Namibia.

On President Husni Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Paris and Washington, Dr Butrus Ghali said that contacts between Egypt and France are continuing in order to discuss the appropriate time to raise the Egyptian-French draft resolution on the Palestinian question that is listed on the Security Council's current agenda. He said: We want coordination between European and African diplomacy and would like to guarantee the approval of the big powers that have a permanent seat at the Security Council. He indicated that France is the chairman of the EC for the next 6 months and, therefore, can play a positive role in the Palestinian question.

Dr Butrus Ghali pointed out that President Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington will basically deal with the Palestinian question. He added that there are close relations between Egypt and the United States, and these relations require contacts and meetings at the summit level.

Replying to a question on the convocation of the Jordanian Parliament and its connection with the Palestinian question, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: The Egyptian stand is clear. We call for the revival of negotiations between the PLO and the Jordanian Government — negotiations which were suspended on 10 April last year — because time is a factor in the issue due to the increasing Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and because of the beginning of a U.S. election year.

Therefore, he said, we must shed light on the Palestinian question and support any move that helps us to do so. Accordingly, we do not see any contradiction between the convocation of the Jordanian Parliament and the PLO's activity.

Dr Ghali hoped that agreement will be reached between the PLO and Jordan, and that a joint front from the two sides will be formed so that negotiations can once again be reactivated for the sake of guaranteeing the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that both Egypt and Sudan support the PLO under Yasir 'Arafat, who represents Palestinian legitimacy.

Concerning the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, Ghali stressed Egypt's support for Lebanese legitimacy, expressing the hope that reconciliation between the Lebanese factions would be reached. He said that Egypt's stand on Lebanon's problem is obvious, stressing the need for the Israeli forces' withdrawal. He added that this withdrawal will help in providing more chances for contacts between foreign and Arab sides in order to enable Lebanon to restore its unity and again play its role in the Arab community.

Regarding Arab solidarity, Ghali expressed his belief that solidarity will sooner or later overcome Arab differences. He emphasized the importance of any Arab meeting in overcoming Arab differences, and said that neither the Palestine question nor Arab economic problems can be solved except through solidarity and by settling Arab differences.

Ghali spoke about President Mubarak's African tour, which included Zaire, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Sudan, explaining that Mubarak discussed with the leaders of these countries the future of the OAU. He said that there is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese stand on the OAU — a stand that considers the OAU the framework of joint action in Africa which can achieve more economic cooperation and settle conflicts among African countries within an African framework. This is in addition to supporting the African states that are struggling against colonialism and avoiding Africa's involvement in the cold war, which threatens world peace, by supporting the nonaligned policy. He expressed hope that the OAU would be able — through the forthcoming summit in Conakry — to play a new role in implementing the Lagos resolutions concerning the establishment of an African common market, or economic blocs in Africa.

Ghali stressed the importance of African economic cooperation, alluding to the fact that Egypt and Sudan are encouraging regional groupings in Africa. He said that the experiment of integration between Egypt and Sudan has attracted African circles and currently represents a positive model that African countries can make use of and follow in order to achieve economic cooperation between them. He explained that the Egyptian-Sudanese integration constitutes one type of cooperation between the north and the south which we hope will take place on the African level before the dialogue between the south and the north begins.

In this regard, Ghali noted that there are successful groupings in West Africa and expressed the hope that the East African states would succeed in reviving the Arusha grouping among Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. He stressed the need to establish cooperation among the countries of the Nile Basin, and said that the experiment of Sudan and Egypt encourages similar experiments to take place in order to realize joint economic projects among the states in this basin.

Ghali stressed the importance of diplomatic integration between Egypt and Sudan in Africa, noting that there is an agreement

between the Egyptian and Sudanese Ministries of Foreign Affairs on the means to achieve coordination between them.

Ghali spoke about the refugees problem in Africa, explaining that Egypt and Sudan are coordinating efforts in this regard. He said that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is preparing for the conference that will be held in Geneva in July to solve this dangerous problem. He noted that during the conference that convened in Geneva 2 years ago, Egypt extended $1 million in aid and dispatched Egyptian physicians to the refugee camps. African refugees total about 5 million persons.

Muhammad Khujali Salihin, Sudanese minister of information, welcomed Dr Butrus Ghali at the beginning of the press conference and said that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's recent African tour, which included Casablanca, Lagos, and Dakar, as well as President Husni Mubarak's African tour confirm the Egyptian-Sudanese coordinated diplomacy on the summit level and stress this diplomacy's important role in Africa.

The press conference was attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign press and news agencies in Khartoum.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Essebsi on Reaccepting Egypt

PM091006 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 31 Jan 84 p 25

[Interview with Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi by Al-Husayn Ibn al-Hajj Nasr, in Tunis — "After the Islamic Summit Conference"]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you assess the work of the fourth Islamic summit conference?

Answer: The fourth Islamic summit conference in Casablanca was preceded by a preparatory foreign ministers' conference in Rabat, during which there was a useful, serious, thorough, in-depth discussion of many issues. That ministerial conference prepared a number of proposals and draft resolutions which were submitted to the summit conference as part of a draft agenda, including all the issues of major concern to the Islamic states and people, and also some issues of Arab-Islamic concern.

What happened was that when the summit conference convened, the question of restoring Egypt's ICO membership dominated the discussions, despite the fact that the foreign ministers' conference did not discuss it or pave the way for it. Some states simply raised the issue directly at the summit, which led to lengthy discussions from the very first session, taking up most of the participants' time because of the way it was handled. It would have been better and more appropriate if the issue had first been tackled by the foreign ministers. That would have facilitated its discussion at the summit.

Several states supported the idea of restoring Egypt's membership on the grounds that the time was ripe for its return to the fold, and that its suspension was no longer justified because As-Sadat is dead and Mubarak has taken stands which several leaders see as positive initiatives toward a commitment to the major Arab and Islamic causes. Other states opposed the idea on other grounds and for different reasons. Our position in Tunisia is the same as we held at the Fes summit. We emphasized that we have no quarrel with Egypt, that we are emotionally and historically drawn to Egypt, and that Egypt is the most important Arab state, whose exit from the Arab ranks cost the Arabs their equilibrium, which they have still not regained.

Question: So, in your opinion, Egypt's return is necessary.

Answer: We have said that it is still premature to discuss this matter.

Question: Can you explain that?

Answer: We have said that the circumstances which prevailed when the Baghdad conference suspended Egypt's Arab League membership — because of As-Sadat's separate peace with Israel under the so-called Camp David agreements, the normalization of relations with Israel, and the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel — are still the same. The Arab policy pursued hitherto against the Zionist enemy and in the service of the Palestinian cause — which is the paramount Arab cause — is a policy which provides for encircling and isolating Israel and resisting it in all economic, political, military and other fields. The Camp David agreements ran contrary to all that. As-Sadat showed contempt for all Arabs when he signed those agreements.

Question: After Guinean President Sekou Toure's speech at the Islamic summit, you stood up and said that developments should be allowed to take their course. Did you mean that discussion of this matter should be postponed?

Answer: We maintain that such a discussion is premature until we can determine whether or not the reasons for the suspension of Egypt's membership are still valid. Otherwise, we cannot claim that our stands are based on principles, and we could take a stand today and reverse it tomorrow without any justification. We must be clear: Either Egypt returns to the Arab ranks by changing the policy which was the reason for its suspension — which means abandoning the Camp David agreements and the normalization of relations with Israel, which is out of the question as far as Egypt is concerned because Mubarak himself has declared that there is no alternative to Al-Sadat's policy and that Egypt cannot give up the Camp David agreements because that could mean a new Israeli occupation and a bloody conflict for which Egypt is not prepared. Or, if Egypt has no intention of changing its policy, the change of attitude toward it should come as a result of a change in the present Arab policy, in which case we should tackle that matter before we tackle the question of rescinding the decision suspending Egypt's membership. We must first discuss the policy that we want to pursue so that we can agree among ourselves, and so that our stands may be in harmony with our policy and principles. We believe that we cannot advocate Egypt's return with the Camp David agreements: We cannot condemn those agreements and pursue a different policy at the same time.

Furthermore, if this issue is settled positively now, we fear that many Afro-Asian states could drop much of their commitment

to the Palestinian cause and their support for the Arabs and the PLO against Israel.

It is common knowledge that Israel is trying actively to restore its relations with the African states which severed them as a result of Arab and PLO efforts. The African states could say that if the greatest and largest Arab state has normalized relations with Israel, and that the Arabs — far from opposing this step — have urged Egypt's return to the ICO, then these African states are no longer bound by their previous commitments. They could rush to recognize Israel, which would, of course, mean an Israeli diplomatic victory in Afro-Asian and international circles.

Question: You maintain that discussion of Egypt's return is premature, but the situation in the Middle East is such that it would be intolerable to keep Egypt out.

Answer: How is that?

Question: I mean in view of the serious deterioration in the Middle East situation, ranging from Lebanon to the Iraq-Iran war, and the difficult circumstances of the Palestinian revolution after its exodus from Tripoli.

Answer: We never said that Egypt was acting against the Arab nation or its causes.

Question: So shouldn't there be a unified Arab stand backed by Egypt?

Answer: What would that mean? It would mean that we recognized the Camp David agreements.

Question: But Egypt cannot abandon those agreements so easily.

Answer: Precisely, and that is why the Arabs must debate this matter, otherwise they will lose all credibility. We Arabs have, in fact, always been accused of lacking credibility and policy. This is perhaps an opportunity to show that, even in adverse circumstances, we can take serious Arab action. We believe that there must be a dialogue. We cannot begin by ignoring or bypassing problems. We should consider what policy we really want to pursue toward Israel. I want to emphasize here that we have no personal quarrel with Egypt.

Question: Do you expect this same issue to be raised at the forthcoming Arab summit conference?

Answer: Tunisia does not oppose discussion of any topic, but what is required is clarity in the study of an issue. We will express our opinion. The matter was raised at the Fes summit, and we examined it with complete objectivity. The majority of states were of the opinion at the time that such a step was premature.

Question: Some people blame the Casablanca Islamic summit for not laying down any conditions. Was that a concession to the Egyptian leaders, who said that they would reject any conditions imposed on Egypt's return to the ICO?

Answer: Actually there were semi-conditions at the Casablanca conference. A committee was formed to ascertain whether or not Egypt would honor Islamic summit resolutions and the ICO charter. The committee will report to the ICO steering committee, which will then invite Egypt back. These are all formalities.

Question: Does commitment to the Islamic summit resolutions also mean commitment to those resolutions under which Egypt's membership was suspended?

Answer: God knows. This point is somewhat ambiguous, and anything ambiguous cannot have good results. Anyway, Tunisia cannot go against a majority decision. We expressed our opinion and did not take part in the voting, because it is a question of principle.

ETHIOPIA

Goshu Wolde Meets With Egypt's Butrus Ghali

LD081919 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon Comrade Goshu Wolde, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member, and Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, discussed the major issues of the continent. The matters discussed at the Foreign Ministry by the delegates of the two countries included the Chad problem, Namibia's independence, and Western Sahara. During the discussion, Comrade Goshu Wolde gave an account of the efforts Socialist Ethiopia has made in its capacity as current OAU chairman to solve the continent's problems.

Dr Butrus Ghali arrived in Addis Ababa this afternoon to deliver a message from the leader of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Mubarak, to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and the current OAU chairman.

TANZANIA

President Nyerere Receives Angolan Oil Minister

EA082101 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: President Nyerere this evening held talks with Angola's Minister of Petroleum Ndugu Pedro de Castro van Dunem. During the talks, the Angolan petroleum minister delivered a special message to Mwalimu Nyerere from President Eduardo dos Santos. Mwalimu and Ndugu van Dunem also discussed bilateral matters and the current situation in southern Africa, particularly the Namibian problem.

The talks were also attended by Minister for Water and Energy Ndugu al-Noor Kassum and other government officials.

RSA Withdrawal Claim 'Propaganda'

MB090837 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The Angolan people will never cease to support and assist the Namibian patriots who struggle for the liberation and independence of their people. This position was reiterated in Dar es Salaam by Comrade Pedro de Castro van Dunem, Angolan minister of energy and petroleum, who is currently visiting Tanzania.

The Angolan official also unmasked the attempts designed to make the public believe, by means of imperialist propaganda, that South African troops are evacuating southern Angola. He accused the South African authorities of not having the slighest intention of withdrawing their army forces from Angola and of not wanting peace and stability in southern Africa.

Mwinyi Appoints Zanzibar Housing Minister

EA090155 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1800 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text]The chairman of the Revolutionary Council and interim president of Zanzibar, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi, today appointed Ndugu Ali Haji Pandu [Zanzibar chief justice] as minister for lands, works, and housing and as a member of the Revolutionary Council.

UGANDA

Obote Criticizes Democratic Party, Urges UPC Strength

EA081559 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] President Obote has sounded a strong warning to those people who think of grabbing power by the use of the gun, that the people of Uganda will fight to the last man to keep their hard-won democracy. The president was this morning speaking at the opening of a 3-day combined meeting of the Central Executive Committee, the National Council and the parliamentary group of the Uganda People's Congress at the International Conference Center.

Dr Obote also warned Ugandans to be on the alert for misguided Ugandans who think of coming to office by using soldiers of fortune. He wondered why people like Binaisa and Lule revert to recruiting mercenaries to overthrow the government when they claim to have some support in Uganda.

The president reminded the delegates of their responsibility as leaders to pronounce policies, debate them, amend them where possible, and adopt these policies. He criticized the Democratic Party for their failure to come up with any concrete policies in the last 3 years. Even their recent delegates' conference failed for 3 days to get any (?policies). They went back as ignorant as ever, the president declared amidst deafening cheers. Dr Obote pinned this failure to come up with any policy squarely on the leadership of Dr Paul Kawanga Semogerere.

The president further reminded the three organs of the party of their responsibility to set the pace and to point the way toward the country's economic recovery. He added that they have a dual role of paving the way as well as thinking for the Democratic Party, since they are bankrupt of any ideas. Dr Obote also pointed out their responsibility to teach the Democratic Party that government and parliament are not the roots of power and that power lies with the electorate. When the time comes, he added, it is the people to decide to whom to hand over power and that power lies with the electorate. When the time comes, he added, it is the people to decide to whom to hand over power. The president urged the delegates to exercise the people's power with responsibility and to constantly aware that they are servants of people.

Dr Obote reiterated his advice that nobody outside Uganda owes her a living, adding that assistance must only (?prepare) Ugandans to do more for themselves. In this respect he urged them to tell the people to produce more and the cooperate with unions to

get themselves more organized. The president advised the delegates to work very hard and to ensure the virility of the party right from the grassroots. He said they must keep the party branches strong, because it is (?through them) that they can ensure effective implementation of government policies and programs.

On national unity, the president said the government had done very well and that the people of Arua and Moyo districts who were refugees in the Sudan were now coming back and are being resettled. On the refugee situation in Western Uganda, President Obote assured that the government will never send away any Ugandan citizen. He further reaffirmed government's firm commitment to give refugees mental and physical comfort. Turning to cattle-rustling in northeastern Uganda, Dr Obote assured the nation that this is a national problem which should be resolved in the national policy of peace and goodneighborliness.

The president informed the delegates that measures against bandits in Luwero, Mubende and Mpigi districts were continuing. He informed them that the displaced people in those districts were being cared for by international agencies together with the Uganda Government. Referring to the recent killings of innocent people at Muduuma by bandits, the president wondered how Lule, Museveni and Binaisa hoped to come to power through killing innocent people, including children and women.

Dr Obote ruled out any possibility of treating criminal matters as political matters and warned the delegates that even if any of them went against the law, the party will not protect them. The processes of the law will always be allowed to take their own course. Referring to the murder of the four Europeans, Dr Obote pointed out that government will not go to a press war with the Democratic Party on matters which are criminal and are therefore to be handled by the police.

This morning's meeting opened with a 5-minute silence in honor of one of the greatest liberators of Uganda, the late Major General David Oyite Ojok.

CAMEROON

Chad's Guinassou Rebuffs 'Third Man' Proposal

AB082105 Paris AFP in French 1832 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Yaounde, 8 Feb (AFP) — Chadian Minister of Interior and Security Tahar Guinassou today in Yaounde described Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's proposal to find "a third man" to settle the Chadian conflict as a "futile" exercise.

It will be recalled that the Libyan leader brought up this idea last Sunday in Tripoli during discussions with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, with whom he raised the possibility of finding a "third man," apart from the present Chadian President Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei, the president of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, of Chad, in order to reconcile the Chadians.

Tahar Guinassou, who was received this morning by Cameroonian President Paul Biya, also said at a press conference that the Cameroonian president has reaffirmed his "support for the Ndjamena government concerning events which are presently going on in Chad."

The Chadian minister stated that he had come to Cameroon at the head of a three-man delegation to explain to President Biya the "developments in the situation in Chad, which have been brought about by Libya from outside." Tahar Guinassou recalled that "since 7 June 1982, the Government of Chad, through its leader, President Hissein Habre, has always shown its willingness for a dialogue for peace in the country." "This position remains the same," he indicated.

On the abortive roundtable conference of Addis Ababa — during which negotiations should have taken place between Chadians in early January — Mr Guinassou stated that "the government of Ndjamena cannot accept reverting to the Lagos Accord." "This government, which is a legitimate one recognized by the OAU and all international bodies, cannot reduce itself to a mere faction and sit with any opposition whatsoever," he added.

CHAD

French Army Chief of Staff Arrives for Visit

AB082142 Paris AFP in French 1825 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Feb (AFP) — General Jeannou Lacaze, chief of staff of the French Army, arrived in Ndjamena on Wednesday for a 4-day visit to Chad. General Lacaze's plane, which was to land in Ndjamena on Tuesday evening, had to be diverted to Bangui because of a sandstorm that has persisted in the Chadian capital since morning.

During his visit, Gen Lacaze is expected to meet several Chadian officials, among whom are Routouane Yoma, the minister of defense, and Idriss Debi, the commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces. The chief of staff of the French Army will also inspect the French troops based in the north of the country.

According to official Chadian sources, these talks will offer Ndjamena an opportunity to renew its request for an increased French commitment in Chad.

Also, on the same day and near Ndjamena, President Hissein Habre attended the presentation of colors ceremony for 450 Chadian Army soldiers who have completed a 4-month military training course. These recruits were trained by French military instructors in the use of weapons recently delivered by France to the Chadian Army.

On the diplomatic front Chadian authorities have been trying for the past few days to refute the proposal made by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to find a "third man" to solve the Chadian conflict, observers noted. Thus, Chadian Information Minister Soumaila Mahamat has said that "France must react vigorously against the perfidious attitude of Al-Qadhdhafi." In fact, according to the minister, the problem "is not a matter of an individual but primarily the struggle of a people trying to fight the yoke of Libyan expansionism." According to the minister, the statements of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi constitute "a Libyan campaign of intoxication designed to weaken the struggle of the Chadian people."

The CHADIAN NEWS AGENCY (ATP) wonders "where this miraculous man will come from who would be capable of recovering all of the national territory, safeguarding its sovereignty, and restoring peace with the wave of a magic wand." This "unrealistic" proposal by Col al-Qadhdhafi, ATP contends, "is nothing but a subterfuge that will not receive the consent of even the most stupid Chadian."

On the announcement of Goukouni Oueddei's approval of Col al-Qadhdhafi's proposal, it is stressed officially in Ndjamena that the renunciation by the former president does not mean anything. "You do not renounce something you do not own," it was pointed out in Chadian capital.

French Embassy in Liberia on 'Third Man' Proposal

AB082050 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The French Embassy in Monrovia has reacted to a statement referring in a press conference to the fact that France's foreign minister, Claude Cheysson, has agreed during a meeting with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that a third man was to appear to build Chad. [sentence as heard]

In a release issued in Monrovia by the French Embassy today, the French Government said this is an improper interpretation of the result of the meeting of Minister Cheysson and Col al-Qadhdhafi as concerns the situation in Chad. The release, however, did not elaborate but stated that France, as all African states, will abide by two principles, which were named as: borders are intangible, and the authority of a head of state recognized by his peers — as is currently the case of Mr Hissein Habre — cannot be challenged.

Correction to Variant Version of New Cameroon Cabinet

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Variant, Additional Names of New Cabinet Members" published in the Central Africa section, Cameroon subsection, of the 8 February Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page S 1, right column, line one:

Minister of Information and Culture: Francois Sengat Kuoh.

CONGO

Upper Volta, Chad Envoys Bring Leaders' Messages

AB072050 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The head of state had a tight schedule this morning. Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso successively received at his residence the Upper Voltan minister in charge of state companies, Captain Henri Zongo, and the Chadian minister of planning, Joseph Yodeyman. After the audience, the Upper Voltan minister, who was a bearer of a message from President Thomas Sankara, outlined the relations between Congo and Upper Volta:

[Begin Zongo recording] I would first of all like to tell you that I am bearing a message from Comrade President Thomas Sankara to his friend and brother, Comrade President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. Comrade President has asked me to renew his friendship, and beyond this friendship the Upper Voltan people's gratitude for the revolutionary support of traditional solidarity that the Congo gave to Upper Volta and the Upper Voltan revolution. As you know, the Congo promptly came to the aid of Upper Volta, which is currently going through a difficult period due to the drought. The comrade president, therefore, deemed it proper that we come this morning to express our gratitude to the Congolese people.

Concerning bilateral relations between our two countries, you know that since 4 August 1983, Upper Volta has been engaged on the revolutionary path. That is, it is following the pace set by countries like yours, the People's Republic of Congo. To this end, we should give a helping hand to one another at all levels, either in the economic or (?cultural) fields. That is one of the reasons for our presence here. To be more practical, we will hold talks with some comrade ministers on trade relations which will soon be established between the People's Republic of Congo and Upper Volta. [end recording]

On his part, the Chadian minister, who bore a message from Hissein Habre, talked to our radio correspondent on efforts being made by the Ndjamena government to bring about reconciliation in Chad.

[Begin recording] [Yodeyman] We had the honor of being received by the president of the Republic, His Excellency Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso, to whom we delivered a message from his brother and counterpart, the president of the Chadian Republic, His Excellency Hissein Habre.

[Question by unidentified reporter] How do the Chadian authorities intend to solve the Chadian crisis?

[Yodeyman] Well, the positions of (?both) the government and the opposition should first of all be clarified so that Chadians can come together to establish a national reconciliation, without which all development activities are impossible; therefore, the government intends to make every effort in its power to arrive at this national reconciliation [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What role do you think the Congo can play in settling this conflict?

[Yodeyman] Well, I think between the Congo and the Republic of Chad there is a common interest: We have a common past; we belong to the same organizations of the subregion, whether it is the Central African States Development Bank or the Customs and Economic Union of Central African States, into which Chad has decided to be reintegrated. Therefore, we have common interests which should enable the Congo to play a vital role in the settlement of the Chadian conflict. We have not for a moment underestimated the efforts being made by the Congo. The great hospitality shown to Chadians here is sufficient to show that the Congo is keenly interested in what is going on in Chad, and the authorities should continue in the same direction [words indistinct]. [end recording]

MALI

Nigerian Envoy Briefs Official on Military Takeover

AB072130 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] General Amadou Baba Diarra, deputy secretary general of the party and minister of state in charge of equipment, received the Nigerian ambassador to Mali this morning on behalf of the head of state. His Excellency Benson Owa Tonwe delivered a personal message from General Muhammadu Buhari, Nigerian head of state, to Gen Moussa Traore. In fact, Ambassador Tonwe explained to Gen Amadou Baba Diarra the events that led to a change at the head of the Nigerian state last December. That is what he told Daouda Ndiaye.

[Begin recording] [Tonwe] As you are aware, recently there were events in Nigeria on 31 December 1983, and as Nigeria and Mali are two brother countries which are on good terms with each other, the Nigerian head of state, Gen Buhari, asked me to convey a personal message to the president of the Malian Republic, His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, explaining the events which took place in Nigeria that culminated in the change of government at the end of 1983. The deputy secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People received me in the absence of the president so that I could convey this message to the Malian people.

[Ndiaye] Your Excellency, we also know that relations between Mali and Nigeria will remain the same, whatever the case may be. What we would like to know exactly are the current priorities of the new leaders. We know, for example, that Nigeria is faced with economic problems, but we must surely not forget that Nigeria occupies a certain leadership role on the chessboard of the African Continent. What in general are the priorities of the new leaders?

[Tonwe] The Nigerian Government would like to rapidly put the Nigerian economy on the right track and consolidate relations with brother African countries; then it will forge ahead and contribute toward the development of relations between all the countries in the world. I believe that Nigeria does not have a special leadership role. It has the role of cooperating with all African countries so that we can strengthen our means of attaining our objectives in Africa, which are different from the objectives of other countries outside the continent.

[Ndiaye] In other words, in Nigeria there is certainly a change, but in fact there is no change. For example, relations between Nigeria and Mali are the same.

[Tonwe] I believe that although the basic relations between Nigeria and Mali will not change, we hope that the dynamism of the new government will be reflected in the relations between Mali and Nigeria, and that these relations will be made more dynamic and revitalized. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Buhari Challenges 'Runaway Politicians' To Return

AB072200 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Nigerians may not perform this year's holy pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said this is because the country could not afford to increase the 100-naira pilgrims' travel allowance announced recently. In an interview with Radio Nigeria, Kaduna, Gen Buhari reminded Nigerians that Allah himself says one should perform his religious obligations when one is in a position to do so. He said one of such conditions was finance, which Nigeria does not have now. He added that the country needs money to meet its obligations, particularly food bills.

On traditional rulers, the head of state denied that the military administration was responsible for their seemingly eroded powers. He said the powers of traditional rulers started diminishing as times changed, particularly during the [words indistinct] between them and their immediate subordinates, the 1976 Local Government Review, which abolished the traditional courts, the local government police, the prisons, and recently the abolition of poll and cattle taxes. He said the local government reforms were aimed at giving Nigerians the opportunity to decide on the resources available at their localities. He contended that the reforms took good care of traditional institutions by establishing emirate councils at state levels and the traditional councils at local levels. The head of state explained that his administration recognized traditional rulers as effective vehicles for communication with their subjects, especially now that politics had been proscribed.

Commenting on measures to assist drought-hit states, Gen Buhari said donor countries had the wrong notion that Nigeria was a rich nation and as such she would not need international aid. He said this had made them hesitant to donate. However, he said the Federal Military Government would use its meager resources to help the victims. In addition, he said, more food items and raw materials would be imported.

On the movement to Abuja, the head of state said the Federal Government was awaiting a report from the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory on infrastructures so far provided and how much money had been spent. He said until this is received, the government could not announce any tentative program.

On the current purge in the Civil Service, the head of state assured efficient and diligent civil servants not to fear. He said only those with skeletons in their cupboards need to fear. Gen Buhari said necessary steps have been taken to avoid the repeat of the 1975 exercise which, he said, was seemingly rushed.

Commenting on the findings about some detained politicians, Gen Buhari expressed shock and dismay at the way a number of the former governors were found with large sums of money. This, he said, was unpardonable, especially when teachers and other civil servants were owed salary arrears for months. General

Buhari said one of the most startling discoveries so far was how two fictitious companies were used to sap several millions of naira.

Gen Buhari then challenged runaway politicians to return home and substantiate their allegations of wrongdoings against certain members of the Supreme Military Council. He particularly guaranteed Alhaji Umaru Dikko, I. Shaku Ibrahim, and others safe passage and fair trial. The head of state said they would be free to engage any lawyers to defend them on the wealth they amassed while in office, adding that it was foolhardy for them to remain outside the country and yet attempt to blackmail certain Nigerians back home.

Gen Buhari dismissed as completely untrue the allegations that he has a 700,000-naira house in Kaduna and the joint ownership of a multimillion-naira farm in Funtua. He explained that he built his house in Kaduna with a loan of 140,000 naira from the Mortgage and Union Banks between 1975 and 1978. He said he would declare his assets publicly given available facilities, including the mass media, if Alhaji Umaru Dikko and others would do so on their return.

On the possibility of Nigeria operating the Western type of democracy in future, Gen Buhari said hitherto the problem is not that of the two previous systems. Rather, he said, the operators of the systems were completely insincere. Gen Buhari said it was therefore up to Nigerians to develop a system that will be more African than Western.

Saudi Oil Minister Yamani To Visit Lagos 9 Feb

AB082110 Lagos NAN in English 1700 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 8 (NAN) — Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Shaykh Zaki Yamani, arrives in Lagos tomorrow on a one-day visit, official sources at the Saudi Embassy confirmed today.

The source said that the visit, which is at the invitation of the Federal Military Government, was being played down for "security reasons".

Both Shaykh Yamani and the head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, served at the OPEC Ministerial Council, and the visit is the first by a top member of the OPEC since the military take-over.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer of crude oil, pledged support to the country in 1982 when oil firms tried to exert pressure to force down the price of Nigeria's crude. Last month, the Saudi oil minister commended the Federal Military Government's stand on membership of OPEC.

The head of state said last month that the country would remain a member of the oil group despite calls from within the country that it should pull out if the OPEC failed to increase Nigeria's oil production quota. OPEC assigned Nigeria a 1.3 million barrels production ceiling but the quit-the-OPEC group wants a raise to at least 2 million barrels a day.

Last month, the Federal Military Government sent a delegation to member states of the oil group to explain the reasons for the take-over of government.

Number of Information Centers Overseas To Be Reduced

AB081340 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Nigeria's existing 32 information centers abroad are to be reduced to 26. Their staff strength will similarly be cut from 42 to 29. The country's minister of information and social development, youth, sports, and culture, Group Captain Emeka Omerua, announced this at a meeting he had with zonal directors of the centers in Lagos. He however emphasized that the ministry would ensure that key centers were manned by highly proficient and result-oriented officers.

Group Captain Omerua directed the zonal directors to prepare a comprehensive and effective communications program on their return to their centers. This, he added, should be transmitted to Lagos for urgent study and action. The minister had earlier told the officers that the current economic situation in the country called for critical reexamination of the centers' operational mechanics.

SENEGAL

Information Minister Explains Iranian Embassy Closure

AB082240 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Dakar, Feb 8 (AFP) — The Senegalese Government closed the Iranian Embassy here last week to put an end to "a long process while there was still time," Information Minister Djibo Ka said here today. Iranian Embassy personnel were involved in activities that violate "international norms," the information minister added.

The embassy personnel were engaged in "fundamentalist propaganda" in Senegalese Moslem associations and the Shia Moslem Lebanese community in the country, financed publications, organized trips to Mecca, and increased its Dakar staff without authorization, informed sources here said.

The Senegalese information minister noted that Dakar had closed the embassy in "an act of sovereignty" but had not severed diplomatic ties with Teheran.

UPPER VOLTA

Former Finance Minister Given 7-Year Sentence

AB081650 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, Feb 8 (AFP) — A former finance minister has been sentenced to seven years' jail in the latest verdict in a series of trials for corruption involving leaders of previous regimes in Upper Volta.

Leonard Kalmogo, finance minister from 1978 to 1980 under the regime of General Sangoule Lamizana, was also fined 500 million CFA francs (about 1.2 million dollars) for embezzling public funds and "illegal self-enrichment".

In addition, the People's Revolutionary Court here confiscated personal property to the value of what he was said to have defrauded as expenses — 3.5 million CFA francs (about 8,000 dollars).

Mr Kalmago was also convicted of "helping himself" to 169 million CFA francs (about 395,000 dollars) of public funds and tax fraud amounting to more than 13 million CFA francs (about 30,000 dollars).

The court decided not to rule on a charge of complicity in embezzling a sum of more than 1.1 billion CFA francs (2.6 million dollars) and sent that case to the People's Revolutionary Court at Bobo Dioulasso, Upper Volta's second city.

The court at the same time convicted and sentenced the former minister's chief aide at the time of the offences, Guire Moussa Moise, to a seven-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of 4 million CFA francs (about 10,000 dollars).

A former top financial administration official, Edouard Yameogo, accused of embezzling a sum of over 350 million CFA francs (about 800,000 dollars) has been ordered by the same court to repay the sum with interest and fined 400 million CFA francs (nearly one million dollars).

Meanwhile the trial of Andre Roch Compaore, a rural development minister under the military Recovery Committee for National Progress (1980-1982), was continuing today and could go on for several more days, Voltan radio reported.

ANGOLA

Soviet Union Said Providing MIG-23's to Luanda

MB081420 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 1 Feb 84 p 3

[By Peter Honey]

[Text] Windhoek — The Soviet Union has begun supplying Angola with MIG-23 fighter-bombers, considered superior to South Africa's Mirage F-1, a spokesman for the South-West Africa Territory Force confirmed today.

About "three or four" of the long-range jet aircraft were shipped into Luanda last year and are believed to be stationed there at present.

So far, South African Mirages have only been in clashes with MIG-21s, such as the one shot down over southern Angola last year.

The Territory Force spokesman compared the arrival of the aircraft with that of the advanced mobile surface-to-air missiles (SAM-9s) recently captured in Angola as an indication that Cuba and the Soviet Union did not intend to relinquish their positions in Angola.

"We have always believed that the Soviets want a secure base in Angola, and they have been pumping in increasingly sophisticated weaponry to hold that base," he said.

USAID Administrator's Remarks on Capitalism Scorned

MB090814 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The United States, which is the main instigator of the war in southern Africa, has once again showed its total disdain and disrespect for other nations. Agency for International Development Administrator McPherson stated in New York that the United States will not make any efforts to improve relations with Angola if the Angolan authorities do not bring about reforms to its economic structure, based on the principles of what he called freedom of capitalist enterprise.

From this statement one can infer that for the United States the only condition which would enable the establishment of relations between Washington and Luanda would be Angola's adoption of a capitalist economic policy. That position would never be adopted by the Angolan Government, who consciously and freely chose the path of socialist development, even knowing that imperialism would charge a high price for that option. That price may be perceived in the constant attacks carried out by South Africa against the People's Republic of Angola and in the crimes perpetrated by UNITA counterrevolutionary bands, which claim the lives of hundreds of people besides destroying economic and social property.

A recent example of these actions comes to us from Cuanza Sul Province where, in the municipality of Quirimbo, a group of UNITA counterrevolutionaries carrying firearms broke into three farms, destroying several agricultural machines and burning a large quantity of coffee which awaited delivery.

MALAWI

South Korean Parliament Delegates Arrive for Talks

MB090709 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] A five-man South Korean parliamentary delegation arrived in the country today for a 4-day visit during which it will hold talks with government officials. The leader of the delegation, Mr (Chin Hyon To), said that the delegation is in the country to brief the Malawi Government on why the South Koreans are not in a position to accept a proposed tripartite reunification conference with North Korea. Mr (To) said the briefing would also include the South Korean general foreign policy toward their African friends and the rest of the nonaligned states.

MOZAMBIQUE

6 Reported Killed in Train Attack by 'Bandits'

MB090703 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] According to AIM, which cited a Mozambique railways source, 6 people were murdered and 11 wounded in an attack carried out by the armed bandits against a train at the Chinhanguanine station. The attack occurred last Monday at about 1945.

Chinhanguanine is a small railway town some 90 km north of Maputo, between Moamba and Magude. It is some 60 km from the border with South Africa. The railway station and a shop are the only two cement buildings, and the rest of the town consists of several dozen huts.

MNR Said Responsible

LD081833 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Six people burned to death as a result of an attack on a passenger train in Mozambique last Monday. Several people were also injured, four of them seriously. A bazooka fired by the attackers caused the engine to derail, after which the train was sprayed with machine-gun fire. According to a semiofficial source, the attack was carried out by the Mozambican National Resistance, the second in less than a month south of the Save River.

Government Forces Claim Victories in Inhambane

MB082025 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Our victories in 1983 have greatly exceeded all expectations. This is what Captain Domingos Casse, the chief of oper-

ations of the military command of Inhambane Province, told AIM. He pointed out that this was due to the offensive mounted by the Mozambique Army and organizational and operational changes which have been made.

Domingos Casse said that since the military offensive was mounted in the province, over 20 enemy bases have been destroyed, including the central base at Tome. We occupied the bush, transformed it into an operational zone, and reduced the enemy to passive defense, he said. AIM was informed that in less than 20 days, 7 bases belonging to the armed bandits were destroyed during operations carried out during the festive period. The bases were situated in Inhambane, Vilanculos, Morrumbene, and Massinga. The two bases in Morrumbene District were destroyed on 5 and 7 January. A total of 23 bandits were killed and one was captured, along with his weapon. A quantity of war materiel was also captured, and 31 head of cattle as well as 4 motorcycles which had been stolen from civilians were recovered.

In the remaining 5 bases destroyed between 22 and 31 December 1983, a total of 32 bandits were killed. These are confirmed figures from the battlefield. A military source disclosed that the enemy's casualties — those killed and wounded — should have been substantially higher, but they always try to take their dead with them when they flee. A large quantity of weapons and property stolen from the civilians were also seized in these bases.

According to Domingos Casse, in (Djane) alone, where a bandit base was destroyed on 22 December, the war materiel and goods seized filled three big trucks. The base was situated about 40 km south of the provincial capital, between Lindela and Cumbana.

According to the chief of operations of the provincial military command, the area is still dangerous, particularly at night. Small groups were still operating in these areas, trying to advance south in search of food. They carry out actions without any coordination or fighting morale. Most of them, he went on, are even unable to walk due to weakness, and if they have not yet surrendered it is because they fear reprisals, particularly from the people. The greatest fear that the bandits have at this period is of being caught by the people. The people hate them very much, and they go to the extreme of seeking protection from the Army in order not to be killed, a military source said.

During the month of December, the people captured 25 bandits in Massinga alone, 7 of them with their weapons. This year, as of 9 January, another 10 had already been caught, 3 of them with their weapons. The people grab them by hand. They don't even have the strength to fire their weapons, Domingos Casse commented. In military terms, three reasons could account for their present condition: They are receiving less support from South Africa; they are preparing themselves for a major offensive; or their morale has suffered considerably since the offensive mounted by the FPLM. Although the first reason cannot be totally ignored, the destruction of Tome base was a heavy blow for the bandits, since South Africa was providing supplies to the base by air. Capt Domingos Casse lays more emphasis on the third reason. It is like a soccer game, he says: If a team is losing by nine to zero, it cannot have the strength to reverse the results. The same is true with the bandits: Inasmuch as they suffer defeats daily, it is reflected in their morale.

Commission Estimates $75 Million in Flood Damage

MB081512 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] At least 109 people have died in the floods that have devastated the south of Mozambique, and initial estimates put the damage at $75 million. The first official figures on the disaster were released yesterday by the country's National Disasters Commission, and the government has said the support of the international community was vital. Three hundred and fifty thousand people have lost their crops, which would have been harvested next month, and almost 50,000 have lost all their possessions in the flood waters. Five thousand five hundred people have been evacuated from the striken areas, many of them in poor health due to the time they spent cut off without food or shelter.

Four special centers have been set up to distribute food, clothing, and medicine to those evacuated. Thousands of people are still cut off, and planes and helicopters are continuing relief missions. More than 11 tons of food and clothing was dropped in the Catuane area in the far south of Maputo Province yesterday, including the first batch of hot food.

Five thousand head of livestock perished in the flood, the equivalent of three months' meat supply to Maputo City; and one-quarter of the province's dairy cattle has been lost. A quarter of a million hectares of fields in the sector were affected by the floods, with a loss of about 55,000 tons of maize, 15,000 tons of beans, and 20,000 tons of vegtables. Damage to the citrus crop is estimated at $6.5 million, and the entire banana crop has been lost.

The irrigation system has also been devastated, with more than 50 small dams destroyed and 28 pumping stations put out of action. Damage to the Pequenos Libombos and Corumana dams, which are being built in the west of Maputo Province, is estimated at $5 million. Ten thousand tons of sugar production have been lost, and several factories were seriously damaged. Reports from farther north say the cashew crop in Gaza Province, which was expected to be good, was almost totally wiped out by Cyclone Domoina and the hailstorm that accompanied it.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO's Nujoma Holds Press Conference in Rome

AU090835 Rome ANSA in English 0827 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, February 9 — The South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) "is prepared to contribute" to a thirty-day cease-fire or the "disengagement" proposed by the South African Government on condition that Pretoria simultaneously accepts a definitive cease-fire appliable to all sides and which leads to the independence of Namibia-South West Africa, SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma told a press conference here Wednesday.

He added that if the South African Government failed to accept this condition, his organization battling for the independence of

the territory illegally administered by Pretoria would not suspend the fighting for one single day.

Sam Nujoma, who came to Rome to open a tour for organizing solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa, also launched a new appeal for the nations of the European Community to politically condemn and economically isolate "the fascist and racist regime" of South Africa.

He recalled that the Pretoria government has been able to block the enactment of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia thanks to the support of the administration in Washington led by President Ronald Reagan. The liberation movement leader also charged that the U.S. is helping South Africa build nuclear arms.

According to information obtained by SWAPO, he said, the assistant American secretary of state for African affairs, Chester Crocker, is negotiating the U.S. supply of nuclear technology for South Africa.

Nujoma insisted that these allegations could be demonstrated by State Department documents in his possession.

Today, the SWAPO leader will be present at the Rome City Hall for the opening of a petition drive for the liberation of South African political prisoners and on Saturday will travel to Livorno for the launch of the second Italian "ship of solidarity" with the peoples of southern Africa.

RSA Disengagement 'Insincere'

MB090715 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] SWAPO President Sam Nujoma has described South Africa's stated intention to withdraw from Angola as an ambiguous and insincere maneuver to gain time. Mr Nujoma, who is in Rome for a series of meetings on Namibian independence, said that SWAPO's fight would only stop when Pretoria proposed direct talks with it, adding that South Africa could not achieve a stable truce through unilateral withdrawal or talks with the Angolan Government. He said that the disengagement from Angola would not contribute to a solution of the Namibian problem unless it is a step toward the cease-fire foreseen by UN Resolution 435. Mr Nujoma condemned the Reagan administration's policies toward the region, saying South Africa had become stronger and had been given the go-ahead to become a nuclear power by Washington.

Van Niekerk Receives Proposals on 3-Tier Government

MB081230 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Proposals and representations by seven second-tier authorities concerning the planned amendment of Proclamation AG-8, which provides for a three-tier system of government, have been handed to the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr van Niekerk, in Windhoek. Representatives of the seven administrations met in the city yesterday under the chairmanship of the white member of the Executive Council in charge of agriculture and finance, Mr de Wet. Mr de Wet says they discussed the financial position of second-tier authorities and socioeconomic problems related to it.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Says Cease-Fire Currently in Effect

MB081934 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says a cease-fire is being observed at present between South Africa and SWAPO in southern Angola, and there exists what he terms a very promising climate for peace. Addressing foreign journalists in Cape Town, he said that South Africa was in a preparatory stage of a cease-fire on the basis of assurances given by the United States. SAPA quotes Mr Botha as saying that South Africa would continue to insist on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola as part of an overall settlement in South-West Africa. The American Government, he said, was in full agreement with this, and there were also a considerable number of African leaders who wanted the Cubans out of the country.

Prime Minister Hopeful on Regional Security Accords

MB090554 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, has expressed the hope that security agreements will be concluded soon with more southern African states. Mr Botha told a public meeting at Tzaneen that he was working toward peace in southern Africa, but that South Africa would not stop defending its inviolability and freedom. Referring to South-West Africa, the prime minister said South Africa did not want to let the territory down, but the time had come when South-West Africa had to stand on its own feet.

Mr Botha said he believed that South Africa's economic position would improve considerably in the next few months and that it should be well on the road to recovery within the next year. He appealed for greater productivity, adding that no one could do anything about the drought and that South Africa just had to wait for an increase in the price of gold. Mr Botha said South Africa had been tested recently by international bodies and the country had been found to be one of the best to invest in.

'Nonpolitical' Factors Reduce Trade With Black Africa

MB090634 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 84

[Text] The Africa area manager of the South African Foreign Trade Organization, Mrs (Sally Gallagher), said South Africa's trade with the rest of Africa last year dropped by an estimated 13 percent to 800 million rands. Addressing the Port Elizabeth branch of the South African Export Club, she said that a further decline to about 700 million rands had been projected for this year.

Since 1980 there had been a steady decline in South Africa's trade with Africa through nonpolitical factors. Africa's purchasing power had diminished drastically as a result of droughts, rising defense spending, and poor economic conditions. African countries accordingly were buying more and more from those countries which offered credit and special financing facilities. Such facilities were not offered by South Africa.

The result of all this was the wrong impression that South African trade with black Africa was declining because of political pressure. Mrs (Gallagher) said there was not a single African country which had not bought South African goods at least once during the past 5 years. South Africa's unofficial exports to the rest of Africa during 1980 and 1981 had totalled close on 500 million rands.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe: Army Must Modernize To Counter RSA

MB081658 Harare THE HERALD in English 4 Feb 84 p 1, 5

[By Munyaradzi Chenje]

[Text] The Prime Minister, Cde Mugabe, yesterday urged the Army to tighten its finances and maintain all its equipment as Zimbabwe could not afford losses.

Addressing students of the intermediate staff course at the Zimbabwe staff college, KG VI Army Headquarters in Harare, Cde Mugabe said: "The annual financial allocation for the build-up of necessary armaments and equipment, pay and general maintenance of the Army is some 382 million dollars for this present financial year.

"All kits and equipment must be carefully maintained and, most importantly, properly accounted for. We simply cannot afford losses, misuse or damage of even the minutest item, not even a pencil, from a purely financial consideration." The Army must not be caught napping by the enemy with a high proportion of its hardware in a state of disrepair.

Circumstances not of Zimbabwe's making in southern Africa forced it to maintain a "disproportionately larger army" than it would otherwise contemplate and this represented a heavy drain on the exchequer, not the least of which was the "syphoning of our sparse resources" or foreign currency with "just about every purchase we have to make of a military nature".

"We cannot lend ourselves in Government to provision of exotic items of equipment.

"We must examine in minute detail what is the minimum with which we can operate, bearing in mind the potentially explosive situation we may have to contend with and compatible with the needs of self- preservation. That, to my thinking, is a staff problem of great magnitude and one for thorough examination," he said.

The Army must be trained to use sophisticated and modern weapons to counteract South African-inspired aggression. Zimbabwe had to catch up rapidly on every facet of warfare and was vulnerable until it achieved a high level of expertise and performance.

"Who is not aware that our nationals have been reunited, trained and armed by South Africa and then infiltrated back into Zimbabwe to carry out a systematic campaign of harassment, rape, murder and arson directed against the peasants, white commercial farmers and Government and other workers in the rural areas? We have thus not mere threats of hostile acts to contend with; we have the reality of an actual situation of conflict. We cannot afford to be complacent over our situation as it faces us.

"This conflict situation, sponsored by a neighbor equipped with sophisticated weaponry, must act as a spur to us to embark upon specialised instructions and training in the usage of sophisticated and modern weaponry and equipment," said the prime minister.

This was the task facing the reorganized army. He was happy that the staff college student officers were being taught sound basic staff work related to the country's needs.

"It is your duty and responsibility to work with maximum efficiency to help raise the standard or fighting capacity of the Army and at the same time create a super-efficient administrative organisation in every branch of the service," said Cde Mugabe.

The Commandant of the Staff College, Colonel A.K. Mutambara, said the college was started on April 18, 1980, and the intermediate courses covered all aspects of operational and routine staff work, logistics and the all-arms battle in conventional and counter-insurgency warfare. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of sound decision-making and communication skills.

"The course not only deals with military affairs but also encourages the students to consider the place of the Army in the nation, the structure of the nation and regional global affairs."

ZIPRA Claims of 'Large Liberated Zones' Cited

MB081729 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in English to Zimbabwe 0430 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] In case you did not know it, ZIPRA is claiming large liberated zones in Zimbabwe. ZIPRA claims that the triangle formed by the Bulawayo to Beit Bridge Road, the Plumtree to Bulawayo Road right to the Botswana border is now all theirs. The dissident force says that with the exception of major towns it is completely in control of the area. We know for a fact that the odd daring military unit may scuttle into this region for a few hours, but it makes certain that it is back in the barracks by evening.

With dissidents spreading right through the midlands, along the eastern border, and as far north as Chwinoi, Mugabe cannot be

getting much sleep these days. The only worthwhile military unit is led by Lionel Dyke, the great Turk killer of the Rhodesian war. It used to be Dyke's proud boast that one white Rhodesian soldier was worth 20 ZANLA, and that the Rhodesian African Rifles Troops was worth any 10 ZANLA terrorists. Certainly the units now under his command are proving the point, if only in terms of being prepared to have a go at the dissidents. The fabulous 5th Brigade has proved itself to be little more than an armed group of criminals, always prepared to murder, rape, and torture, then run at the first sign of resistance. Hence the hasty retraining of the 5th, on which Mugabe was relying, and the continuing absence of all that [word indistinct] praise in our dustbin liners about the North Koreans. Oh, we do miss their chubby smiling faces. Perhaps they have been listening to Radio Truth and finally got the message.